MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 APRIL 1981

Lebanon

Israeli Raid, Shelling in South--Beirut radio reported that Israeli planes raided targets in the Sidon and An-Nabatiyah areas during the afternoon of 26 April, hitting residential areas and causing over 40 casualties. IDF radio said the Israeli planes hit Palestinian military targets and all returned safely to base. Damascus radio reported that Syrian planes shot down two Israeli aircraft for the loss of one Syrian plane, but Jerusalem radio denied that any Syrian-Israeli dogfight had taken place and later reported that a Syrian MiG-23 had been downed accidentally by a Palestinian surface-to-air missile. Beirut and Voice of Hope radios reported shelling along the border strip on 24 and 25 April. Jerusalem radio disclosed that Israel has provided the Christians in the south with "shelters."

Beirut, Zahlah Situations--Voice of Palestine reported that the situation exploded in Beirut on 25 April. Beirut radio said the fighting died down later in the evening. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Beirut airport remained closed owing to shell damage. On the same day, the radio said Syrian MiG aircraft strafed the Sannin heights near Zahlah while their helicopter-borne forces attempted to take the French redoubt, a former French mountain observation post. According to AFP, forces of the leftist People's National Socialist Party have also been involved in the attempt to dislodge the Phalangists from this position. Voice of Palestine reported that Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) had consolidated their control over these positions by the evening of 25 April despite a Phalangist counterattack. voice of Lebanon said fighting for the Sannin heights continued on 26 April while Syrian forces renewed their attacks on Qa' ar-Rim, near Zahlah, on the same day. However, on 27 April the radio said the deployment of Lebanese Army units in upper Sannin had eased tension there.

The deployment of Lebanese Army units in this area followed a 24 April meeting of Lebanese and Syrian officials in Shtawrah, reported by Beirut radio, in which they agreed that Lebanese security forces should take control of Zahlah and its international roads, prohibiting any other armed presence inside the city. According to Voice of Palestine, the agreement permits ADF forces to remain on the ridges surrounding Zahlah. Another report by the radio said the agreement could not be implemented until the return of Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus from Damascus, where, according to Damascus radio, he met Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and his Syrian counterpart, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, on 26 April. Beirut radio said Butrus returned to Lebanon on the same day after describing his talks with the Syrians as "useful, positive and fruitful." Khaddam said he will visit Beirut shortly to promote a national dialogue and national accord in Lebanon, the radio reported.

Both Voice of Palestine and Damascus radios have accused the Phalangists of receiving outside assistance, the former charging that Egyptian senior officers have arrived in eastern Beirut to advise the rightists and the latter claiming that French military supplies and a team of French mercenaries have arrived in Beirut and Juniyah to help the Phalangists.

Syria

Al-Asad Speech--In a 26 April speech to the Peasant Federation congress in Damascus, broadcast live by Damascus radio, President al-Asad strongly attacked the Jordanian regime, which, he said, was established to dismember Arab Syria and has always been its enemy. Charging that Jordan has stabbed Syria in the back through its support for the Muslim Brotherhood, Al-Asad warned King Husayn that very soon the Jordanian people will regain their right to make decisions and then the Syrians will join their Jordanian kinfolk.

Hamah Disturbances--Voice of Lebanon radio reported on 24 April that, following a hand-grenade attack on intelligence service vehicles, Syrian Army units had isolated the city of Hamah in an attempt to flush out opposition groups with artillery and rocket fire. On 26 April the radio said fighting between the Muslim Brotherhood and special squads was continuing in the city.

Libya

TASS reported that Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Moscow for an official visit to the Soviet Union.

Kuwait

Kuwait Radio broadcast the text of a joint Kuwaiti-Soviet communique issued at the end of Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah's 23-25 April visit to the Soviet Union during which he held talks with his Soviet counterpart, Andrey Gromyko, and with Soviet Council of Ministers First Deputy Chairman Ivan Arkhipov. The communique said the two sides supported the holding of an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of the PLO on an equal footing with other parties. They condemned Israel's aggressive operations against its Arab neighbors and measures to consolidate its hold over occupied Arab territories. They also condemned Israeli measures to change the status of Jerusalem. Regarding the Gulf, the two sides supported the right of Gulf countries to guarantee Gulf security and dispose freely of their natural resources by themsleves and without any foreign interference. They announced opposition to foreign military bases and nuclear weapons in the region and to all forms of foreign interference in the internal affairs of Gulf states. Gromyko has accepted a Kuwaiti offer to visit Kuwait, the communique noted in conclusion. According to a KUNA report on the talks, Shaykh as-Sabah also called for an end to Soviet pressure in Afghanistan and tried to dispel Soviet doubts about the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Qatar

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher arrived in Qatar from Oman on 24 Apri, the GULF NEWS AGENCY reported. According to QNA, she held talks on 25 April with Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and other leading officials. A Foreign Ministry press release issued at the end of the visit and reported by QNA said that during the talks the amir had emphasized that the Palestinian problem is the crux of the Middle East crisis. He had also stressed that it is in both regional and international interests to keep the Gulf region out of big power conflicts and for the region's security to remain the responsibility of its governments and people. Thatcher held a press conference before leaving Doha, the GULF NEWS AGENCY reported, at which she said the European states will continue developing their initiative on the Middle East, concentrating on solving the Palestinian problem. She added that she believes the Soviet Union poses the greatest threat to the Gulf region. Thatcher left Doha for home on 25 April, the agency said.

Reaction to AWACS Sale

Citing AL-AHRAM, MENA reported that Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has welcomed the U.S. administration's decision to supply AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia. He added that Egypt believes the sale is vital to the strengthening of regional security. A Cairo radio commentary said Israel is angry about the sale, not because it represents any danger to Israel's security, but because it represents a change from the "total allegiance" of the United States to Israel. In this respect, the commentary said, Israel's interests coincide with those of the Soviet Union, because both want to prevent U.S.-Arab rapprochement. The Amman English-language JORDAN TIMES also welcomed the decision, seeing it as a sign of the U.S. administration's strength. It warned, however, that the "real test" of U.S. policy in the region is yet to come and that the American people will have to decide whether they want to be answerable to Israel for their foreign and domestic policies.

According to Tehran radio, Iran's Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri suggested to a Friday prayer gathering in Qom that the planes are intended for use against Iran. According to his reasoning, since the AWACS are being supplied to Saudi Arabia only on the condition that it recognizes Israel and not intervene in Palestine, "this means nothing other than that these aircraft must be used" against Iran.

Egypt

As-Sadat Interview--In an interview with the chief editor of OCTOBER magazine, carried textually by MENA, President Anwar as-Sadat said he would have "no qualms at all" about joining NATO. Referring to the examples of Great Britain, Greece and Turkey, As-Sadat said the United States does not use its NATO bases in these countries to undermine their sovereignty. Nevertheless, he reiterated that Egypt does not want U.S. bases on its territory. As-Sadat strongly welcomed the sale of U.S. arms to Saudi Arabia, saying he would be the "happiest man" if the Saudis acquire AWACS aircraft. Despite Saudi Arabia's public opposition to U.S. bases on its territory, As-Sadat said, the Saudis had privately asked for them but lacked the courage to announce this openly owing to their fear of Iraq, Syria and the Palestinians. As-Sadat revealed in his remarks that he has accepted Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri's invitation to visit Sudan on its national day.

Van der Klaauw Visit--EC Council Chiarman Christian van der Klaauw arrived in Cairo on 24 April, MENA reported, for talks on the Middle East problem. According to MENA, he held talks with Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali on the 25th, after which 'Ali said they had agreed that European moves in the Middle East must complement the Camp David accords. 'Ali said he had told Van der Klaauw that Europe should help build trust between the Palestinians and Israel and should demand that Israel take measures to build such trust. Cairo radio reported that Van der Klaauw also met with President as-Sadat.

Inter-Arab Affairs

At the end of 2 days of talks in Fes, the Jerusalem Committee issued a list of resolutions including the recommendation that the new U.S. administration be told of the Islamic countries' denunciation of U.S. policy in the Middle East and be warned that continuation of this policy will harm U.S. relations with the Islamic world. The resolutions, read by Moroccan minister of State M'hamed Boucetta and broadcast by Rabat radio, also urged that Western states be contacted in an effort to convince them to recognize the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians. They recommended steps to bring an end to Jewish immigration into Israel, to expel the Israeli Labor Party from the Socialist International and to pass a UN resolution that will lead to Israel's expulsion from the United Nations unless it implements UN resolutions on the Middle East. Rabat radio had noted earlier that two members of the committee, Syria and Iran, did not send representatives to the meeting.

Iran

Nabavi on Clashes, Arms Deal--In an interview broadcast by Tehran radio, Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi blamed opponents of the revolution for causing recent clashes and disturbances throughout Iran. He accused them of trying to take advantage of the absence of most revolution guards, who are at the front, and of disputes among officials. He added that the main obstacle to preventing disturbances is that Iran's officials have not yet adopted a decisive, specific policy regarding political groups and political freedoms. Speaking of the $56-million fraudulent arms deal in which Iran was involved, Nabavi said Iran has been forced to take certain risks in purchasing arms when it needs them for the front. He asserted that it has suffered no great harm by taking such risks and predicted that Iran will be able to recover the money lost in the arms swindle.

Oil production--According to Tehran radio, the Oil Ministry announced that Iran produced an average of more than 1.6 million barrels of oil per day during the first 6 months of the "past year." It added that the country's oil-refining capacity has increased to an average of 1 million barrels per day.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio reported fierce fighting through the weekend in the Bazi Deraz heights of the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region and claimed that so far more than 1,000 Iraqis have been killed or wounded on that front. It also reported that Iranian forces captured two more hills in the area and that one Iraqi MiG and one helicopter were downed in the area on 26 April. Other Tehran radio reports said that clashes occurred in the Owraman region and on the Dezful front in which 150 Iraqis were killed. Iranian Air Force planes, the radio reported, bombed Iraqi supply depots in the Basra region. Iraqi General Command communiques, carried by INA and Baghdad radio, confirmed the heavy fighting in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, claiming that almost 700 Iranian troops have been killed there.

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JERUSALEM COMMITTEE MEETS, ISSUES RESOLUTIONS

LD232144 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Excerpt] The Jerusalem Committee's new round of meetings began at 1900 today at the royal palace in Fes. The session was held in camera under the chairmanship of King Hassan II and in the presence of Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure and Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman, who arrived in Fes this morning to participate in the committee's meetings in their capacities as the two members of the Jerusalem Committee's minicommittee.

The meetings are also attended by delegations of the Jerusalem Committee member countries: the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, Jordan, Palestine, Libya, Bangladesh, Guinea, Senegal, Indonesia, Pakistan, Lebanon and Sudan. It is noted that two other members, Syria and Iran, were not present.

King Hassan Speech

LD252149 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Speech by King Hassan II at the final session of the Jerusalem Committee meeting on the evening of 24 April in Fes--recorded]

[Excerpts] In whatever harmony it performs its duty and whatever good intentions it may have, the Jerusalem Committee, after all, is no more than just a committee formed by the Arab and Islamic countries. And the Arab climate we see now does not make us optimistic. The road before us is not strewn with roses. Indeed, we see the road fraught with troubles and difficulties.

In view of this I have a question which I wish to put to myself, to all of us, and to the other countries forming the Islamic group: In the welter of our problems, do we have the right to dissolve our holy cause, the cause for which the Jerusalem Committee was formed? Shall we always remain with tied hands and our faces covered with signs of contradiction between our words and deeds? Shall we keep ourselves away from the real core of the issue, the core for which the Jerusalem Committee was formed: to restore Jerusalem to its people, to restore the land to its owners, to retrieve the usurped lands for their countries and to retrieve for the Palestine people their clear rights and insure for them the bright future that could make them and their present young generations forget the tribulations and disasters through which they lived and grew?

I represent a country which says modestly and confidently: We are a Muslim country whose language, the official language, is Arabic. Though in the past our country did not fight on the eastern flanks, it is fighting today and will fight on the eastern flanks of the Arab world. Despite the sufferings we are undergoing on our borders and inside our continent, should the Arabs and Muslims decide to strike and wage war, then we are to be prepared to fight. Let everyone know: We have said this once and for all. This is because at all times and in all places, Morocco will remain the faithful soldier of the cause of Arabs and Muslims.

I say this in the capital city of Moulay Idriss, God bless him, who conquered Morocco for the Muslims and founded the first Moroccan state in Islamic history. And in this respect, Hassan Ben Mohamed cannot renege on the history of his great uncle, Moulay Idriss.

When the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee commits himself, he does so on behalf of all the committee's members. All Jerusalem Committee members and their peoples, whatever leaders they may have, have given their blood and lives in support of right.

How are we going to stay loyal and how are we going to obtain results? Logically and historically, we cannot expect miracles from history at the blink of an eye. And what was lost during decades and eras cannot be retrieved at a stroke. But we can rapidly recover our rights if we show solidarity with one another, and good intentions and loyalty in action.

We must take steps individually and collectively. Whoever wants to undertake an individual move, let him do so: Whoever wants to undertake a fresh action, let him do so taking into account that fresh individual moves and actions should be bound by commitments to the common cause, by the common plan, by what such a person had pledged himself to before his Arab community and his Islamic community, near the holy places [reference to recent Islamic summit in Saudi Arabia], and before international public opinion.

Resolutions Issued

LD251734 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Resolutions of the Jerusalem Committee read by Moroccan Minister of State in Charge of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation M'hamed Boucetta following the final session of the committee held in Fes on 24 April--recorded]

[Text] The Jerusalem Committee held its 5th session in Fes 23-24 April 1981 under the chairmanship of King Hassan II and in the presence of President Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, and President Ziaur Rahman, president of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, who are members of the Summit Committee of the Jerusalem Committee.

Out of its realization of the extermely serious conditions, in particular the Jerusalem and the Palestine problems and the Middle East crisis in general, and in line with the resolutions of the third Islamic summit conference which was held in Mecca and the Islamic action program to meet the Zionist enemy which was prepared by the Jerusalem committee and approved by the Islamic kings and heads of states at that Mecca summit conference, the Jerusalem Committee recommends the following:

1. In the political field: Out of its belief on the need to bolster Islamic solidarity, eliminate all disputes among Islamic countries, unify Islamic ranks in the face of the challenges, and out of its desire to frustrate the opportunities of enemies who are working to create and deepen conflicts among the Islamic states; in implementation of the resolutions of the third Islamic Conference summit which provide for the use of all economic capabilities and natural resources of the Islamic countries, including oil, in a sincere and carefully-studied manner; in affirmation of the committee's resolutions which state that the questions of the liberation of Jerusalem, Palestine and the occupied Arab territories are the principal cause of the Islamic nation and that the continuous Israeli aggression against the Arab states constitutes a threat to peace and security in the Middle East; and in affirmation of the Islamic countries' commitment to the liberation of all the Palestinian and Arab occupied territories, including Jerusalem, the Jerusalem Committee recommends the following:

A. The contacting of the heads of states of the European countries including the heads of states of Japan, Australia, Canada and New Zealand to explain the Islamic position and to convince them of the importance of recognizing the Palestinian people's right to return and to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state and also of the importance of the recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

B. The contacting of the new U.S. administration to convey to it the Islamic countries' denunciation of the present American policy which supports and bolsters Israel at all levels and also to urge the new U.S. administration to understand the Islamic position on the ground that the continuation of that policy will have negative repercussions on the relations and interests of the United States with the Islamic world, and to explain the Islamic position and convince the new U.S. administration of the need to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and to recognize the Palestinian people's right to return, self-determination and the establishment of their own independent state.

C. The continuation of contacts with the Vatican to persuade it to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian people's right to return, to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as their capital and also to ask the Vatican to condemn Israel's annexation of Jerusalem and continued occupation of Jerusalem, and the Palestinian and Arab territories.

D. The adoption of all necessary steps to secure the halting of Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine on the grounds that this immigration is the main source for Jewish manpower which bolsters the Zionist entity and imposes a de facto colonization on the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories headed by Jerusalem. These steps shall include making the necessary contacts with countries which permit Jewish immigration and provide facilities for it across their territories in order to persuade them to stop that immigration. They also include the encouragement of countermigration of Jews from Palestine abroad.

E. The affirmation of the need to make contacts with friendly parties within the Socialist International movement to secure their help in bringing about the expulsion of the Israeli Labor Party from the movement's membership on the grounds that the policy of that party was founded on aggressive expansionist bases and that it was responsible for launching wars against the Arab nation and for agreeing to Jewish settlement in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and to the Israeli resolution on the annexation of Jerusalem, and to contact these friendly parties of the Socialist International movement to persuade them to prevent the holding of a meeting of the Socialist International movement in Jerusalem.

F. The bolstering of relations between Islamic and Latin American countries in order to prevent and halt the penetration of Zionist influence there in whatever form, particularly military penetration in the form of Israeli arms deals to some Latin American countries as well as activities by the Jewish Agency and its agents who forge deeds of sale of lands belonging to Palestinian expatriates from the occupied parts of Palestine, and to contact these expatriates and explain to them the enemy's designs and the negative repercussions of such signs.

G. The contacting of nonaligned countries and members of the OAU and the socialist bloc in order to bolster relations with them in view of their stands on the Palestinian question.

H. The initiation of necessary contacts with friendly countries in order to implement the Jerusalem Committee's resolution which provides for the passage of a UN General Assembly resolution to freeze Israel's membership in it in preparation for its expulsion from the United Nations unless it conforms with the UN resolutions on Palestine and the Middle East questions.

II. In the cultural and information fields.

A. The need for the General Secretariat to speed up the review and printing of the basic document of Jerusalem in three languages and its distribution and circulation on the widest possible scale in the Islamic countries and throughout the world in general on the grounds that it represents a historically, politically, culturally important reference on the question of Jerusalem.

B. The launching of an information campaign in Europe and the United States to win further popular and official support for the cause of Jerusalem and Palestine.

C. The holding of international seminars on Jerusalem in the American capital in view of the importance of acquainting the American people and cultural and university circles there with the Palestinian and Jerusalem questions.

D. The organization of other international seminars on Jerusalem and Palestine in Bonn, London and Tokyo.

E. The need for the General Secretariat to work in coordination with the chairmanship of the Jerusalem Committee, to take the necessary steps and make full preparations for the holding of the seminar in Washington this year and to cover the expenses thus incurred from allocations made under the Islamic program for the celebration of the advent of the 15th hegira century.

F. The need for the Islamic committee on cultural and information affairs, which was formed by the third Islamic Conference Summit, to follow and implement all the information resolutions issued by the Islamic Conference and the Jerusalem Committee regarding the questions of Jerusalem and Palestine.

G. The entrusting of the General Secretariat with the task of forming societies to the "French Jerusalem" society in other European capitals and preparing a report on this for submission to the Islamic foreign ministers conference.

H. The urging of Islamic countries to instruct their diplomatic missions in world capitals to participate in the activities of the Jerusalem Committee in these capitals.

I. The contacting of political leaderships of Arab origin in South American countries in order to influence the positions of the governments of Latin American countries toward Jerusalem and Palestine.

J. The contacting of member countries of the UNESCO Heritage Committee to speed up the adoption of a final decision recording Jerusalem as a historical city in order to preserve its heritage and religious, cultural, historical and constructional character and to ensure the adoption of such a decision at the forthcoming meeting of that committee which consists of the United States, Panama, Australia and Tunisia.

III. In the economic field and to bolster steadfastness:

A. The need to urge Islamic countries to cover the capital of the Jerusalem Fund which amounts to $50-200 million with a further $50 million this year to meet the growing responsibilities and ensure the realization of its objectives in bolstering the steadfastness and struggle of the Palestinian people.

B. The need to urge Islamic countries to make contributions to cover the capital of the Jerusalem Fund trust which amounts to $100 million, which is to be invested according to the basic regulations.

C. The encouragement by the Islamic countries of their humanitarian and charity organizations to offer donations to that trust including the offering of property and moveable and immoveable assets.

D. The recommendation that the 12th Islamic foreign ministers conference discuss the allocation of a fixed annual budget for the Jerusalem Fund.

E. The urging of the Permanent Council of the Islamic Solidarity Fund to offer further support to projects for bolstering the steadfastness of the Palestinian people either from allocations made for this purpose in the annual budget or from other allocations for other activities within its framework.

F. The affirmation of the Islamic Conference's resolution on the establishment of an Islamic office for the boycott of Israel which would coordinate its activities with those of the Arab League office for the boycott of Israel.

G. The urging of Islamic countries to ensure that their capitals conclude twinning fraternal agreements with Jerusalem city as an expression of the full respect the Islamic world holds for their holy city.

H. The need to highlight the efforts exerted by the Islamic countries through their representatives on the Executive Councils of the IMF and the World Bank in order to secure the acceptance of the PLO as an observer in them, and also to highlight the stands of those countries which make the granting of all types of new contributions dependent on the acceptance of the PLO as an observer.

I. The affirmation of the need to ask the EEC to suspend all bilateral and collective economic agreements they might have with the Israeli enemy in order to implement their pledges that such agreements would not apply to occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

J. The urging of EEC countries and Japan not to adopt legislation promulgated in the United States against the Arab boycott of Israel and to concentrate on the legitimacy and continuation of the boycott.

IV. In the military field: In affirmation of the resolutions of the third Islamic Conference summit and of the Islamic action program to counter the Zionist enemy and in order to satisfy the PLO's military requirements and capabilities both in quality and quantity and in line with the jihad principle to which the Islamic countries committed themselves through the Mecca declaration, the Jerusalem Committee reiterates the following:

A. It renews the call for the establishment of a military bureau at the General Secretariat to improve military coordination between the PLO and the Islamic countries in a manner which makes it possible to benefit from the Islamic countries' capabilities in serving the interests of the Palestinian struggle.

B. It affirms the need to bolster the Arab frontline states and the PLO against Israeli aggression by all methods and means.

VOP REPORTS ON AWACS DEAL; CITES TASS REACTION

JN250826 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Following a long debate, the U.S. administration announced its agreement to the arms deal with Saudi Arabia amounting to $6 billion. The deal includes AWACS spy planes, F-15 and F-16 fighter bombers, air-to-air missiles and aerial warning planes [as heard]. Washington has justified its agreement to the deal under the pretext of an imaginary Soviet threat to the Arab Gulf.

The Reagan administration's agreement to sell these arms has aroused various reactions. In Moscow TASS considered this decision a new step by the U.S. adminstration to escalate the arms race in the Gulf region. The agency exposed the U.S. allegation regarding a Soviet threat, pointing out that the main objective of this decision is to strengthen the U.S. presence.

BAHRAIN

PAPER QUESTIONS REAGAN'S LIFTING OF GRAIN EMBARGO

GF261556 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 26 Apr 81 p 4

[Text] No one can blame U.S. President Ronald Reagan for his decision to lift the embargo on grain sales to the Soviet Union that has been made in the interest of American grain farmers. The interests of these producers have been harmed, and they suffered great losses when U.S. grain sales to the Soviet Union--which used to amount to more than 80 million tons per year--were halted. President Reagan discovered--being the primary official responsible for protecting the interests of the American nation--that he should solve this matter. Thus, he has decided to lift the embargo on grain sales to Moscow that was imposed after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. No one can blame Reagan for this.

What is strange is that President Reagan has forgotten what he himself has said about the Soviet threat and Soviet expansionism and has remembered only one thing--the American grain producers' interests. At the same time he is trying to sell us his theory that the greatest threat to our region and the whole world is the Soviet threat. His theory says we should forget our causes and that the only thing we have to remember is this threat.

We have the right to ask: Is it right for President Reagan or any other U.S. president to take care of U.S. interests first and for all the world's issues to be cast into hell? Is it wrong for us to give priority to our vital interests and our just causes? How is it that the U.S. President pays attention to U.S. interests--even if they are economic interests limited to one sector of the American people--and that we are required to forget our occupied lands, the usurped Palestinian land and its homeless people, the daily massacres being committed against us by the Zionist enemy and the threat this enemy poses to our present and future?

It is a strange and astonishing situation. It shows the extent of unreality and the disregard for the interests of others in U.S. policy. This makes it an unacceptable policy.

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM VISIT TO USSR

LD251316 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1221 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Apr (KUNA)--The Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, returned home from Moscow today at the end of his visit, the first of its kind by a senior Kuwaiti official for a long time.

On his return Shaykh as-Sabah said that his visit to the Soviet Union was marked by the warm reception and welcome which reflected the feelings of friendship between the Soviet Union and Kuwait. It was also marked by the cordial atmosphere of his talks in Moscow. The Kuwait official had talks with Ivan Arkhipov, the first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko. They dealt with the bilateral relations, the Afghan problem, the Middle East crisis, the Iraqi-Iranian war and the situation in the Gulf region. He also conveyed a message from Amir Shakyh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah to the Soviet leaders.

Shaykh as-Sabah told journalists that the talks he had with the Soviet officials dealt with bilateral relations and the best means of strengthening mutual cooperation. They also dealt with strengthening these relations in the interest of the two friendly peoples. He said that the situation in the Gulf and the Middle East crisis were major issues in the Soviet-Kuwait talks.

He said: The Soviet Union shares our view that the responsibility for the security of the Gulf lies with its states only. It also shares our view on the need to keep the region free of military bases and naval fleets so that it will remain far away from any struggle between the superpowers.

Shaykh as-Sabah pointed out that he exchanged views with the Soviet leaders on the proposals of Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev regarding the neutralization of the Gulf and the convening of an international conference on the Middle East crisis. He said: We explained our position to the Soviet side on this issue, namely, that we find positive points in these proposals. We also explained to the Soviet side the aims and purposes of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Referring to his discussion with the Soviet officials on the Soviet proposal to convene an international conference on the Middle East, Shaykh as-Sabah said: We found positive points in this proposal because we support any effort to achieve justice in the region in a manner which guarantees that the Palestinian people can exercise their established national rights to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state.

Shaykh as-Sabah expressed confidence that the Soviet Union is now in better position to evaluate the aims and purposes of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which was set up by six Gulf Arab states on 4 February. The Kuwait official said that the two sides' viewpoints were in agreement with regard to the international situation, that is, regarding the need to lessen world tension, to limit the arms race and to support the plans of the developing countries.

It is expected that a joint communique on the visit will be issued tomorrow in Kuwait and Moscow.

24 Apr Press Comment

LD241240 Kuwait KUNA in English 1049 GMT 24 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Apr (KUNA)--Extracts from Kuwaiti newspaper editorials on Friday:

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's visit to Moscow:

"The Soviet Leaders, in their talks with the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, will listen to the most balanced and free Arab views uncommitted to the West or the East.

"When Sabah al-Ahmad speaks in Moscow, he speaks with full awareness of the hazards of the international struggle in the Gulf area and the Indian Ocean. Both the Kuwait and the Soviet sides will agree that safeguarding peace in these two areas is for the good of the Arabs and the Soviets. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad is also expected to tackle the situation in Afghanistan and Aden, and how the U.S. is exploiting these situations by creeping to the Gulf region through its fleets and bases. The Soviet Union will certainly understand the sensitivity of the situation already established in the region.

"The understanding of what Sabah al-Ahmad will say in Moscow is very important, particularly because this visit adds to the Soviet credit as penetrates the psychological, anti-Soviet situation and sentiments prevailing in the Gulf area after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Not only this, but Kuwait will represent all Gulf countries in Moscow and Gulf subjects of concern, particularly that pertaining to the American plans to form the Rapid Deployment Force under the pretext of confronting the Soviet threat.

"The Soviets can play their winning card by foiling the U.S. and the Western plans in the Gulf if the situation in Afghanistan is settled."

AL-QABAS on the same subject:

"The Gulf region is no longer in need for mediators and middlemen in its international relations. This concept will be deepened and fostered with the advancement of the principles of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

"Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's visit to Moscow is a new boost for this concept of independence as the region's states can look after their own affairs and can hold talks with superpowers with no mediators.

"The results of his visit will not be limited only to Kuwait. Moscow is giving this visit its real weight because it fully understands the Kuwaiti role and its influence in the Gulf. It may be assumed that the Soviets are looking upon their direct talks with Kuwait as indirect talks with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. The Soviets find themselves at ease when they negotiate with the Gulf states because they have no direct or substantial problems with them. All open threats are coming from the West particularly from the U.S. and not from the Soviets. The Soviet-Arab relations are getting closer due to Arab disappointment over the American stand towards the Arab causes particularly the Middle East crisis and the U.S. adoption of the aggressive Israeli policy without reservation. The U.S. has planted evil seeds in the Arab lands and it has to reap rotten consequences."

ARAB TIMES on the same subject:

"There has been quite a bit of excitement in the world media about this visit of a deputy prime minister from Kuwait to Moscow. The trip comes soon after the tour of the Gulf by American Secretary of State Alexander Haig and while the trip by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is yet to end. Hence, the interpretation is that this is Gulf's way of balancing the two sides.

"The important result of Shaykh Sabah's visit is likely to be the revival of the proposal of neutrality in the region. This proposal, originally made by President Brezhnev and welcomed by Kuwait, has not had the attention it deserves. It is time it is given proper attention by not only the Gulf states but the Western powers, which are showing a keen interest in the region.

"Kuwait has once again thus asserted its strict neutrality between the superpowers. The visit to Moscow is a reiteration of that policy. It is futile to try and read distorted meaning into it."

Press Comment 26 Apr

LD261400 Kuwait KUNA in English 1037 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 26 Apr (KUNA)--Extracts from Kuwaiti newspaper editorials on Sunday:

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's visit to Moscow:

"Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's visit to Moscow has, politically, succeeded in breaking the siege the U.S. was trying to impose on the area under the pretext of the Soviet threat and in upsetting American claims that the Soviets are coming to swallow up the Gulf and its oil.

"Kuwait's negotiations with the Soviet Union were as clear as Kuwait's policy and stands. Shaykh Sabah received similar response from the Soviet officials, as demonstrated by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko's speech in the banquet he held for Sabah al-Ahmad, when he spoke about the Middle East crisis and the Arab rights. Security of the Gulf, he said, is the responsibility of its own peoples, and he also spoke of joint cooperation and mutual respect.

"Sabah al-Ahmad's visit to Moscow proved the independence of the Kuwaiti decision-making, uncovered the U.S. policy of exaggeration and forestalled Pentagon's plan for forming the Rapid Deployment Force.

"The case of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was exploited by the U.S. to caution the Gulf countries against the Soviet danger. Nothing has changed in Afghanistan but the U.S. has lifted a grain embargo imposed on the Soviet Union after the invasion. Sabah al-Ahmad was clear in this point when he admitted differences in views concerning the Afghan problem. Yet this was not an obstacle to express Kuwait's frank standpoint in opposing the presence of any foreign armies in any land in the world.

"Crises like those of Palestine or Lebanon, created for us by the superpowers, East or West, are planned to distract our attention and to keep us busy in order to drain our wealth. This fact should be taken seriously with full awareness of what we want and what we don't want, the same as Kuwait's policy which has proved to be effective through Sabah al-Ahmad's visit to Moscow."

OMAN

OFFICIAL VIEWS THATCHER VISIT, PDRY RELATIONS

JN251010 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0850 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Muscat, 25 Apr (GNA)--Omani Foreign Minister Under Secretary Yusuf al-'Alawi has described the talks between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman as successful. In a statement to the paper OMAN, published here today, the Omani official said that Mrs Margaret Thatcher's tour of countries in the area will give new momentum to relations between the United Kingdom and Arab Gulf countries. The Omani official added that the British prime minister had explained during her talks her country's stand on the dangers of a Soviet intervention in the area. He said: We are convinced of the validity of this stand.

Referring to Aden's rejection of a reconciliation with Muscat, Al-'Alawi said: Aden's rejection of a reconciliation with Muscat stems from the Soviet Union's policy of creating an atmosphere of threats and regional disputes in the area.

QATAR

THATCHER TALKS WITH OFFICIALS, MEDIA; ENDS TOUR

UK-Qatar Talks

JN250947 Doha QNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Doha, 25 Apr (QNA)--Official talks between the State of Qatar and the United Kingdom were held at Ad-Dawhah Palace this morning. The Qatari side was headed by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, and the prime minister, while the British side was headed by Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

QNA has learned that the talks, which dealt with bilateral cooperation and ways of strengthening this cooperation as well as several major international issues of mutual interest, had also focused on the Palestinian issue in particular and the situation in the Gulf region in general.

On the Qatari side the talks were attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and minister of defense; Finance and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani; Information Minister 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwair; and the Qatari ambassador to the United Kingdom.

The talks were attended on the British side by Douglas Hurd, minister of state for foreign and commonwealth office; the UK Ambassador to Qatar Colin Trevor Brant; and the remaining members of the delegation accompanying Mrs Thatcher.

Press Release on Talks

JN252046 Doha QNA in Arabic 1940 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Doha, 25 Apr (QNA)--His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, has reaffirmed that the Palestinian issue is the crux of the Middle East crisis. He added that the fact that this issue remains unsettled was and will remain a basic element in the deteriorating situation in the entire region.

His highness pointed out that reaching a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab cause is the only ideal way to put a final end to that crisis, whose continuation poses the danger of an explosion in the whole region and what this entails in the form of massive, real and prompt dangers to its security and peace and eventually to international security and peace.

His highness the amir of Qatar explained this during his talks with UK Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who ended her visit to Qatar today.

A press release issued today by the Qatari Foreign Ministry on His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani's talks with the British prime minister said that his highness the amir of Qatar concentrated during these talks, which were permeated with a spirit of cordiality and friendship, on the Palestinian issue in particular and the developments in the situation in the region in general.

The release said that his highness the amir of Qatar explained during his talks with Mrs Thatcher that the aspired for just and comprehensive solution cannot be achieved unless it is based on legal and moral international principles, UN resolutions and Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories it occupied in 1967, particularly the Palestinian territories and the city of Jerusalem, and the recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights, headed by their right to self-determination in complete freedom and away from any foreign intervention, provided that this is done through the PLO in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

His highness stressed his complete conviction that it is in the interest of both the region's states and the general international community to keep the big powers' struggle away from the Gulf region, whose security and stability should remain the responsibility of its governments and peoples. In this respect his highness welcomed all constructive and positive efforts that are aimed at putting the region's affairs in order, pointing out that this cannot be achieved except through the return of all Arab rights to their owners in accordance with the principles of international legitimacy.

His highness said that the European group in particular has an important role that can be effectively played to achieve this just objective, which is supported by the entire international community. He expressed the Arab and and Islamic nation's hope that this group will play that role, which is dictated on it by its big share of responsibility toward international security and peace on the one hand and toward the ties of friendship and major common interests between it and this nation on the other.

Regarding relations between Qatar and Britain, the release pointed out that the talks dealt with these relations and ways of developing them for the welfare of the two countries' peoples. The two sides also reviewed current international issues of common interest and exchanged viewpoints on how to deal with them in a manner that achieves the security, stability, peace and prosperity for which the world aspires.

Television Interviews

JN252105 Doha QNA in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Doha, 25 Apr (QNA)--British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher has said in an interview with Qatari television that the intentions of the United States and the United Kingdom to form a rapid deployment force [RDF] do not include any thoughts on having a military presence for either of them in the Gulf region. She explained that the formation of such a force comes within the framework of the two countries' readiness to confront any emergency that may arise in the future in any part of the world. Mrs Thatcher stressed that the RDF will not be sent to any state without a prior request by this state, pointing out that Britain has despatched two vessels to the Indian Ocean as a result of, what Mrs Thatcher termed, the anxiety that prevailed in region. Mrs Thatcher added that Britain is indeed trying to form special forces having flexibility of movement. She expressed her belief that the idea of forming such a force on the same lines of the U.S. RDF is considered a very good idea.

Touching on her talks in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman and the State of Qatar, Mrs Thatcher said that during her visits to those states, she explained to their officials that Britain gives special concern to the Gulf region, which was received with encouragement. She added that her talks also dealt with the importance of finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, which constitutes a big source of tension.

Mrs Thatcher renewed her welcome of the Arabian Gulf states' trend toward more coordination and cohesion among themselves in order to defend their states.

On the European initiative regarding the Middle East Mrs Thatcher expressed her belief that this initiative will continue on the same course started last June with the tour of Gaston Thorn, then president of the EEC Ministerial Council, and followed up by Van der Klaauw, current president of the council who is now present in the area. Mrs Thatcher pointed out that UK Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Lord Carrington will also continue this course when he assumes the chairmanship of the EEC Ministerial Council. Mrs Thatcher said, however, that the European initiative does not compete with the U.S. role in any way. She explained: We cannot solve the Arab-Israeli conflict without the presence of the United States. Mrs Thatcher added: What we are trying to do is to define certain phrases such as self-determination, Israel's right to exist within secured borders, who shall have the right to vote regarding the issue of self-determination, what they will vote for and when.

Mrs Thatcher emphasized that all these issues should be defined and that any settlement of the Middle East problem demands implementation in several stages. Such a settlement also requires numerous regulations and measures. Mrs Thatcher explained in this regard that the European group is trying to study all these matters.

Replying to a question on peace in the Middle East, Mrs Thatcher said that we are trying not to leave it to the Americans to decide the next step before the coming Israel elections. She added, however, that only through cooperation among the concerned states in the area on one side, and Europe and the United States on the other, can we solve this problem.

Mrs Thatcher also said that friendship, cooperation and consultation already exist and that, therefore, we hope we will be able to reach fruitful results.

Replying to a question on the stands of Britain and the European states on the Palestinian issue, Israel's expansionist policy and whether there is any possibility that Britain will recognize the PLO, Mrs Thatcher said that two things must take place together. These two things are that first, Israel has the right to continue existing within secured borders and that the Palestinian people recognize this right and, second, in return, Israel must recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Although Mrs Thatcher insisted on Britain's refusal to recognize the PLO as yet, she said that Britain must recognize the Palestinians' legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination, a right which should be defined by the Palestinian people.

On the situation in Lebanon the British prime minister expressed her belief that reaching a settlement for the Lebanese crisis is extremely difficult. She added that reaching a settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict is much easier than reaching a settlement for the Lebanese crisis. She pointed to the foreign countries' attempts to solve the situation in Lebanon and said that any foreign advice in this regard should come from the United Nations.

Thatcher Tour Ends

JN251412 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1345 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Doha, 25 Apr (GNA)--British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher and her delegation left Doha this afternoon for home after an official 2-day visit to Qatar as part of a tour of several states in the area.

SAUDI ARABIA

OFFICIALS, PRESS COMMENT ON AWACS DEAL WITH U.S.

Foreign Minister's Expectation

LD261304 Kuwait KUNA in English 1102 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 26 Apr (KUNA)--The Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Sunday expected that his country would receive the U.S.-made radar AWACS planes despite opposition by Israel and pro-Israel Congress members. In a statement to AL-MEDINAH newspaper Prince Sa'ud said that the campaign against the deal would fail. The Saudi foreign minister was commenting on Reagan administration's decision to sell the AWACS to the Saudi Kingdom, a move which he described as a positive step for boosting bilateral relations.

Interior Minister's Defense

LD260908 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0725 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Apr (SPA)--Minister of Interior Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has denounced the biased attacks against the kingdom over the question of U.S. arms supplies. The aim of these attacks, he said, is well known, but the kingdom will continue to seek arms to strengthen its armed forces and is capable of obtaining all the weapons it needs to bolster its defenses.

In an interview published today in AR-RIYAD and AL-YAWM, Prince Nayif welcomed the statements made by U.S. officials affirming their intention to supply the kingdom with aircraft and to fill its other military needs.

Prince Nayif appealed to Iraq and Iran to end the bloodshed and to respond to the good offices of the Islamic committee set up by the third Islamic Conference summit. He added that security is in hand throughout the kingdom. He also said: I hope the same applies to the other Arab Gulf countries. However, he added, the continuation of the war does not please anybody in the Arab and Islamic worlds. We pray to God that this war will end soon, he concluded.

'UKAZ Comment

LD241457 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 19 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] Alexander Haig's assertion of the need to meet the kingdom's request for sophisticated weapons and his remark to Congress that a failure to meet this request would be a "setback" for U.S. policy stem from his realization that "when the kingdom requests something, its request must be met," for it has the right to arm itself against any aggressor. They also stem from his realization that the kingdom is very anxious to preserve its independence and to defend itself with its own sons, whom it provides with the best sophisticated and advanced weapons available in the international arsenal to develop its armed forces, which alone are capable of defending its territories against any usurper or aggressor.

The U.S. administration's response to the kingdom's requests is a "good sign" that U.S. policymakers have begun to free themselves from Zionist influence and that the administration has begun to look at things from different angles, not from the single angle which Israel dictated through the "Zionist octopus," whose spreading tentacles have gripped and still do grip U.S. decisionmaking departments.

This U.S. response to the kingdom's requests is a move that will consolidate relations between the kingdom and the United States. When the kingdom asks for weapons it pays for them in full, unlike Israel, which obtains them by sucking the U.S. taxpayer's blood. When the kingdom obtains weapons it is in order to defend itself, not to attack others.

When the kingdom obtains arms it is not for the purpose of occupying other lands or expanding at the expense of others peoples' rights. The congressional response to the U.S. administration's policy will prove to many people in our area that "U.S. decisions" are made by a free American will and away from any foreign influence trying to undermine relations between the United States and its friends.

The kingdom has publicly declared that it will obtain arms from any source because it adheres to a policy of arms diversification in order to maintain its independence of choice and its decision to prevent anybody from having a monopoly on its arms supplies. It will turn to friends first, and if necessary it will turn to any quarter or any source because its responsibility to defend its territories obliges it to place its national interest above everything else.

ARAB TIMES Opinion

GF251100 Jidda ARAB TIMES in English 23 Apr 81 p 6

[Editorial: "A Practical Move"]

[Text] The green light given by the Reagan administration to a package of advanced weapons system to this country has proved to be a practical U.S. commitment, and showed the U.S. deep concern over the security of the region in which Saudi Arabia is a principal constituent. President Reagan has thus turned over a new leaf in American relations with friendly states who need to bolster their defenses for the security and stability of such a vital region.

The action fits in well with Saudi Arabia's policy which advocates boosting defense capabilities of the states of the region themselves rather than stationing foreign troops which could trigger an arms race with the Soviet Union.

Given Saudi Arabia's continental size one can appreciate the need for such radar system to keep the army commanders informed of possible incursions.

Although the package has still to be submitted to the congress for final approval, Israel and its Zionist lobbies in the U.S. are already hitting the roof over the deal, overlooking the fact that Israel has more sophisticate weaponry in large quantieies and in full scale operation. They also ignore the fact of the kingdom's enormous importance to the security and interest of the world and the U.S. itself, and forget that while Israel gets what it wants almost free of charge, Saudi Arabia pays for everything in hard cash before delivery commences. They pretend to have no idea about the defense requirements of a country of this size nor the constructive role it is playing to maintain the well-being of the world's economic order.

Senator Edward Kennedy has pledged to "block this dangerous action," because he is worried that the package deal might one day be used to help the Arabs liberate their lands from Israeli occupation. That seems to be his only concern at the moment. He does not care to remember Saudi Arabia's favors to his own country and to the world as a whole. It does not matter to him that Saudi Arabian moderation in oil pricing and generosity in production have been the only deterent against the $50 per barrel price. He could not care less that this Saudi Arabian policy is saving the world, including his own country, hundreds of millions of dollars a day mainly because of Saudi Arabian wisdom and solicitude.

Unlike the wavering Carter, Reagan has displayed a greater appreciation of the need for a credible American foreign policy that is based on certain realities rather than a total and unstinted commitment to Israel. He has thus voiced the view expressed by a U.S. senator when the F-15's deal was first announced 4 years ago that "not all our interests go via Israel." In fact, if anything, Israel has proved to be America's heaviest and most embarrasing liability.

UAE

PAPER LAUDS KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER'S USSR VISIT

JN251730 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in English 1645 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Sharjah, 25 Apr (GNA)--Kuwaiti deputy premier and foreign minister's just concluded visit to the Soviet Union was commended here today by a leading UAE daily newspaper.

The Arabic daily AL-KHALIJ published in Sharjah said in an editorial that the visit comes as an answer to U.S. hegemony over the Gulf.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah left Moscow earlier today after a 2-day official visit, the first of its kind by a senior Gulf official.

Kuwait is also the only country in the Arabian Peninsula to have diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and the visit attracted special interest by the Gulf Media.

AL-KHALIJ saw the visit as a clear indication that there is a desire by the Arab Gulf countries towards a more independent region away from U.S. influence which it said "is transforming the region into a zone of instability" through the increased military presence under the pretext of protecting Western interests.

Shaykh Sabah was quoted as saying recently that his visit to the Soviet Union was decided after previous consultations and coordination with the countries of the area.
"The Western mass media may air doubts in explaining the Kuwaiti move, but not a single Gulf citizen say that Kuwait is adopting a pro-Moscow line, but would rather say that the Arab Gulf countries have adopted an independent political decision that would help them in achieving peace and stability in the region."

GHAZALAH COMMENTS ON U.S.-SAUDI AWACS DEAL

NC241529 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Washington, 24 Apr (MENA)--Egyptian Defense Minister Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah will continue on Monday his discussions with the military officials in the Pentagon regarding Egypt's armament with U.S. equipment program. The MENA correspondent in Washington has learned that the U.S. side will present at the meeting the U.S. viewpoints concerning the proposals and view presented by Egypt.

Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah is expected to meet for the second time on Thursday or Friday with U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and Chief of Staff Gen David Jones. The correspondent also learned that the purchases list presented by Egypt includes sophisticated arms, including the early-warning Hawkeye planes, as part of the new armament program for 1982.

Answering a question regarding Israel's objection to the U.S. supply of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia, Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah told the MENA correspoindent that the AWACS planes, in his view, constitute no danger to Israel's security, because these planes are not offensive arms but one of the means of defending the country, which will secure Saudi Arabia against any foreign aggression.

Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah added: Egypt is interested to see Saudi Arabia strong, and our stand regarding this question, as declared by President as-Sadat, is well known. The Egyptian defense minister noted that Israel has four early warning Hawkeye planes and said that Saudi Arabia is entitled to own these planes to defend its territory against any foreign aggression or threat.

U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig is due to meet with Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah on Monday. Yesterday the Egyptian defense minister met with the U.S. secretary of defense and the chief of staff. The military situation in the area and neighboring areas was assessed at the meeting.

COMMENTARY VIEWS OPPOSITION TO U.S.-SAUDI DEAL

NC251437 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Bahiyy ad-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "Moscow Frankly Reveals Its Real Intention Toward the Arab Nation"]

[Excerpt] The Soviet information media are launching a violent campaign against the U.S. arms deal with Saudi Arabia, describing it as a prelude to a resumption of the arms race in the Middle East. We will overlook all the Soviet media's claims that the U.S. arms deal with Saudi Arabia is a prelude to an arms race because such claims are not worthy of discussion.

The fact is that while Moscow is talking of an arms race it has ulterior motives, for which it places itself in Israel's service. The Israeli Government has not stopped its angry talk about the U.S. arms deal with Saudi Arabia, on the basis that it constitutes the greatest threat to its security and that Saudi possession of the AWACS will enable Saudi Arabia to be in a position to reject anything, and thus the Israeli defenses would be at the mercy of these giant planes, which are capable of monitoring and conveying information.

Against this Israeli campaign, the United States has repeatedly affirmed by more than one responsible source that the supply of Saudi Arabia with AWACS would not constitute any threat to Israel. An official spokesman for the U.S. State Department has frankly stated that if the United States believed that the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia constituted any danger to Israel's security, it would not embark on it.

Certainly Moscow knows very well that the AWACS deal does not represent any danger regarding an arms race, as it alleges, nor does it represent any danger to Israel's security.

The Kremlin leaders, however, insist on harping on this tune to achieve an Israeli aim, which is deeper than it looks on the surface.

What is creating this anger in Israel and among Israel's friends in the U.S. establishment is the United States adopting a serious decision in favor of an Arab country. Israel considers supplying Saudi Arabia with sophisticated weapons as a change in the traditional U.S. position, as known in Israel, and a deviation from total alignment to Israel. Thus, the U.S. administration's disregard of this basic rule, which has been allowed for many years, is far more annoying to Israel than the supply of AWACS to Saudi Arabia.

The Israeli opposition to the U.S. arms deal with Saudi Arabia is aimed at foiling attempts at U.S.-Arab rapprochement and returning the U.S. administration to its previous total allegiance to Israel. The Soviet and Israeli interests meet at this point, for Moscow and Tel Aviv draw up their plans for the area on the basis of total polarization--with the United States the sole ally of Israel and the Arab world, or most of its countries, a zone of Soviet influence.

AS-SADAT MEETS WITH U.S. LABOR DELEGATION

NC252236 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA)--President as-Sadat has praised the U.S. role in achieving peace based on justice in the Middle East and in seeking to restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination.

At this meeting with a delegation of the U.S. Labor Federation today, President as-Sadat praised the Egyptian-U.S. relations and the American people's stand and support of Egypt in confronting the economic and social development problems.

Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad, chairman of the Egyptian Labor Trade Unions Federation, has said that a cordial dialogue took place between President as-Sadat and the U.S. delegation regarding the circumstances through which Egypt has passed and the role played by the U.S. Government and people in supporting the Egyptian people in their foreign and domestic questions.

During the meeting, President Anwar as-Sadat praised the trade unionist relations between the Egyptian and the U.S. Labor Federation and expressed the hope that the friendly relations between the two federations will further grow and develop. The president also spoke about the political situation and circumstances through which the Arab homeland has passed, including the Libyan interference in the African states with the support of the Soviet Union.

President as-Sadat asked the members of the delegation to convey his greetings to every man and woman in the United States for their positive support to Egypt in all domestic and foreign questions.

Mr Kirkland, the chairman of the U.S. Labor Federation, had praised the friendly relations between the Egyptian and U.S. labor federations and peoples.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS 'URGENT' GHALI-ATHERTON CONTACTS

NC242156 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2112 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)--AL-AHRAM reports in its Saturday issue that urgent contacts took place today, Friday, between Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Mr Alfred Atherton. The paper says that these contacts are a continuation of the consultations which are taking place between the two countries regarding the formation of a UN peacekeeping force or a multinational force.

GHALI VIEWS SINAI EMERGENCY FORCE, OTHER TOPICS

NC261406 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that Egypt is holding continuous consultations with the United States on the formation of an international force for the Sinai. He added that the United States is performing the role of full partner both in the tripartite negotiations on the future of the Palestinian people and the negotiations on Israel's final withdrawal from Sinai.

In a statement to our correspondent, the minister of state for foreign affairs said that the main object of the Egyptian-U.S. contacts is to discuss ways of overcoming the obstacles precluding the formation of an international emergency force and if these efforts fail--due to the Soviet Union's use of the veto right--a multinational force will be formed in accordance with the provisions of the peace treaty.

Dr Ghali added that he will hold discussions with the British foreign minister and senior officials tomorrow. These discussions, he said, will center mainly on the role that the EC could play in helping the Palestinian people attain their legitimate rights. He also said that Egypt has emphasized that there could be no comprehensive peace in the Middle East if a just solution is not found to the Palestinian question. Dr Ghali went on that Britain will chair the EC in June and therefore it is necessary to explain the Egyptian point of view on how to achieve a comprehensive peace so that the European initiative would supplement the Egyptian and U.S. efforts.

Dr Ghali further said that the European states can play an important role in contributing to the establishment of peace in the Middle East in view of their relations with the United States, Israel and the Arab parties. He added that his discussions in Britain will also deal with ways of bolstering the relations between the two countries, particularly in the political, economic and cultural spheres.

On a question regarding the date of the resumption of the autonomy discussions, Dr Ghali said that the negotiations cannot be resumed during the Israeli election campaign because they could be exploited, and Egypt does not want to interfere in Israel's domestic affairs. The negotiations will begin after the elections. All Egypt wants is a strong Israeli Government that would bear the responsibility for the results of the negotiations.

GHALI, PRC AMBASSADOR DISCUSS SINAI FORCE 25 APR

NC251718 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1452 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA)--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, during a meeting today with PRC Ambassador in Cairo Yao Guang [name and title as received], discussed Egypt's desire to form a UN emergency force to keep peace in Sinai after Israel withdraws in April 1982, in the PRC's capacity as permanent member in the Security Council.

Ghali said that he informed the PRC ambassador during the 1-hour meeting that in the event the Security Council fails to adopt a resolution on the formation of an emergency force because of the Soviet stand, we will have to form a multinational force. Ghali said: We are preparing various studies and views on the formation of a multinational force in the event the Security Council fails to adopt a resolution on forming a UN force. He added: However, we prefer and are trying our utmost to form a UN emergency force.

EGYPT REPORTED SUPPLYING SUDAN WITH WEAPONS

NC270836 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)--Brig Gen 'Abd al-Wahhab Bakri, adviser of the General Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces, has stated that Sudan depends mainly on Egypt for the supply of ammunition. light and medium weapons and surface-to-surface missiles of the Swingfire and (?Hawk) types manufactured in Egypt.

The weekly newspaper MAY, which reports this in its edition today, says that Egypt's supplying these weapons to Sudan falls within the framework of the agreements recently concluded between the two countries.

The paper adds that Sudan has recently also concluded agreements with the United States, Britain, France and West Germany for the supply of modern arms and equipment to the Sudanese Armed Forces.

RESPONSE TO CHARGES OF INTERFERENCE IN CHAD VIEWED

NC250742 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0626 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA)--Egypt has foiled a new attempt by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to sow division and differences in the area through a cunning complaint which Goukouni Oueddei, one of the parties to the conflict in Chad, submitted against Egypt, accusing it of interference in the domestic affairs of Chad. In publishing this today, AL-AHRAM adds that the complaint has been communicated to the UN secretary general, security council president and OAU Secretary General Edem Kodjo.

The paper further says: The Egyptian Foreign Ministry immediately sent two urgent messages to the UN secretary general and the OAU secretary general stressing that the complaint was not serious and mentioning the reasons and motives that prompted Goukouni Oueddei to act in this manner on instructions from the government of Al-Qadhdhafi, who has been condemned by the majority of African states and some other capitals because they consider his military inteference in Chad a violation of the unity of this state and an end to the chances of reconcilliation there.

AL-AHRAM adds: Some African states, which sought a peaceful solution to this problem, have now condemned Al-Qadhdhafi's government, which has undermined this attempt to settle the dispute within its national framework that began after the African summit conferences.

AFGHAN REBEL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE RECOGNIZED

NC260836 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)--The weekly magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF says in its Monday edition that Afghan Social Democratic Party leader (Muhammad Amin Dakman) has held contacts with Afghan resistance groups with the aim of forming a rebel government this month. The new government, the magazine says, will have its headquarters in the province of Paktia in eastern Afghanistan. ROSE AL-YUSUF says that Egypt will be the first state to recognize the new government.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUES 24-26 APR

Communique No 316

JN241712 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1627 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)--Our armed forces inflicted heavy losses on the racist Persian enemy forces during the military activities yesterday evening and today. Communique No 316, which was issued a short while ago by the Armed Forces General Command, said that Iranian enemy losses amounted to 120 dead and 3 infantry positions, 1 armored personnel carrier, 3 guns, 3 vehicles, 1 rocket launcher, 2 observation posts and 5 stockpiles of hardware destroyed. The communique pointed that our antiaircraft shot down one hostile fighter plane in the Mehran area. Meanwhile, the communique added, Iraqi planes today launched four air raids on enemy vehicle concentrations in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area, scoring direct hits. Our planes returned safely to base. The communique explained that our losses were 14 martyrs in all sectors and 1 personnel carrier, 5 vehicles and 2 guns damaged. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious armed forces continued to deal severe blows to the racist Persian ignorant forces in the operational sectors. The following is the outcome of the activities yesterday evening and today.

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our forward units clashed with a Magian enemy force in a fierce battle in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area. The enemy sustained grave losses in life and equipment. The battle was still in progress when this communique was prepared.
B. Using various weapons, our units pounded enemy concentrations in the Gilan-e Gharb area, forcing them to flee after sustaining 34 dead. Our units also destroyed one infantry position in the same area.
C. Several were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the Mimak area opposite our positions in the Sayf Sa'd area.
D. An enemy concentration was sighted near our positions in the Mehran area. Our units pounded the concentration forcing it to flee after sustaining 12 dead. Our antiaircraft shot down an enemy fighter plane when it tried to raid our positions in the same area.
E. Our units pounded an enemy concentration near our positions in the Dezful area, killing 14 and destroying 1 gun and 1 rocket launcher.
F. Six were killed and one armored personnel carrier, two guns, one vehicle and one observation post were destroyed in the Shush area.
G. One of our forward units clashed with a group of enemy spceial forces in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area. Our unit forced the enemy group to retreat after sustaining 21 dead. Another enemy force tried to withdraw, removing the bodies of their dead. Our forces attacked it, killing 11. The enemy bodies are still on the battlefield. Our forces also destroyed one stockpile of hardware in the same area.
H. Eight were killed in the Ahvaz area.
I. Several were killed and two infantry positions, two vehicles--one loaded with fuel--and four stockpiles of hardware were destroyed in the Abadan area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 120 dead and 3 infantry positions, 1 armored personnel carrier, 3 guns, 3 vehicles, 1 rocket launcher, 2 observation posts, 5 stockpiles of hardware and 1 fighter plane destroyed.

II. Our air force fighter planes today launched four raids on enemy personnel and vehicles concentrations in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area, scoring direct hits. Our planes returned safely to base.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 14 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One personnel carrier, five vehicles and two guns were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 April 1981

Communique No 317

JN251725 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Communique No 317 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 25 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces continued to pound the racist Persian enemy in the operations sectors. The following are the results of the military activities carried out yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Three vehicles carrying personnel were destroyed in the Iranian region opposite Panjwin.
B. Eleven were killed in the Nowsud region.
C. Our brave units violently pounded with all weapons the forces of the ignorant Persians in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region. In addition to what has been announced earlier, the known enemy losses during the past 3 days amount to 484 dead and a large number of wounded. Moreover, two tanks and eight vehicles were destroyed. Our helicopters raided enemy armor in the same region and destroyed one tank and two armored personnel carriers before returning safely to base.
D. Four were killed and three infantry positions were destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
E. Three were killed and one ammunition stockpile was destroyed in the Mimak region opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
F. Two were killed and two infantry positions and one ammunition stockpile were destroyed in the Mehran region.
G. One of our units clashed with an enemy infantry force in the Dezful region, pounded it severely and forced it to flee, leaving behind 19 dead. Our forces destroyed one ammunition stockpile in the same region.
H. Two were killed in the Shush region.
I. One field gun was destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region.
J. One rocket launcher was destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
K. Our units pounded enemy troop concentrations in the Abadan region and forced them to retreat, leaving behind 17 dead. Our units destroyed two infantry positions, three observation posts and five ammunition stockpiles in the same region.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 542 dead, 7 infantry positions, 3 tanks, 2 armored personnel carriers, 1 field gun, 11 vehicles, 1 rocket launcher, 3 observation posts and 8 ammunition stockpiles.

II. Today our planes attacked enemy armor, vehicle and troop concentrations in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, scoring direct hits before returning safely to base.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 33 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One tank, two personnel carriers, four vehicles and two mortars were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 April 1981

Communique No 318

JN261648 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Apr (INA)--During the past 24 hours the Iraqi Armed Forces inflicted 304 dead on the Persian enemy. Communique No 318 issued here this evening by the Armed Forces General Command said that the other known enemy losses were two infantry positions, two tanks, nine field guns of various calibers, nine vehicles, three excavators, two observation posts and six ammunition stockpiles. It added that Iraqi planes launched three raids against enemy tank and vehicle concentrations in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Gilan-e Gharb regions today, scoring direct hits before returning safely to base. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave armed forces strongly pounded the Magian Persian enemy in the operations sectors. The following are the results of military activities yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our units pounded enemy concentrations and positions in the Nowsud region, killing 46, wounding a large number of charlatan Khomeyni guards and destroying 4 field guns, 6 vehicles, 2 excavators and 1 ammunition stockpile.
B. Our valiant units continued to violently pound Persian enemy troop concentrations and positions in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, killing 213 and destroying 2 tanks, 1 field gun and 2 ammunition stockpiles.
C. One was killed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
D. Six were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the Sumar region.
E. One was killed in the Mimak region opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
F. Two were killed in the Dezful region.
G. One was killed and one infantry position, one field gun, one observation post and three ammunition stockpiles were destroyed in the Shush region.
H. An enemy concentration was sighted opposite our positions in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region. Our forces hit it strongly with various weapons and forced it to retreat after having sustained 22 killed and 2 field guns and 1 vehicle destroyed.
I. One was killed in the Ahvaz region.
J. Eleven were killed and one infantry position, one field gun, two vehicles loaded with fuel and one excavator were destroyed in the Abadan region.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 304 dead, 2 infantry positions, 2 tanks, 9 field guns of various calibers, 9 vehicles, 3 excavators, 2 observation posts and 6 ammunition stockpiles.

II. Our capable air force planes launched three raids against enemy tank and vehicle concentrations in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Gilan-e Gharb regions today, scoring direct hits and returning safely to base.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 29 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Two tanks, nine personnel carriers, three vehicles, two mortars, one field gun and one excavator were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 April 1981

AL-WAZZAN ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON CURRENT ISSUES

NC251351 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Upon leaving the Presidential Palace, the following dialogue took place between Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and newsmen:

Question: What about the security situation in the upper Al-Matn area? Do you think that what is happening in this area will affect the situation in Zahlah if it deteriorates?

Answer: We are aware of this situation and we are following it up. We hope that this situation will have no effect.

On this occasion I want to say that we consider the situation at Beirut airport an isolated situation that we are tackling in order to restore security there. I am aware of the extreme importance of this place and the dangers resulting from its continued paralysis. We will hold contacts in this regard, hoping to receive the cooperation of those concerned in the interest of Lebanon.

Question: When will the internal security forces enter Zahlah?

Answer: Preparations are underway for this purpose. The director general of the internal security forces has contacted me to inform me of some measures in this regard, and I approved them.

Question: Does Minister Butrus' visit to Damascus tomorrow fall within the framework of the practical moves to calm the situation, in addition to what is being done locally?

Answer: Of course, this visit falls within this framework that you referred to. We are continuing to move on all fronts and on all levels to resolve our problem. After this move, other contacts will be held. We hope that as a result of these contacts we can reach the point in which we can feel that we have reached a safe haven.

BUTRUS VISIT TO DAMASCUS TERMED 'MOST IMPORTANT'

NC262240 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Telephone dispatch by radio correspondent Nabil Braks, who accompanied Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus on his 26 April visit to Damascus--recorded]

[Text] The visit which Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus paid to the Syrian capital and his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam were very positive and can be considered as one of the most important visits made by Minister Butrus. Actually, this visit will have positive affect on situation on the ground. It may result in a relaxation of security in the near future.

What did Minister Fu'ad Butrus tell us after the visit and the talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad? Minister Fu'ad Butrus' statement follows:

[Begin recording] I have promised myself not to make any statements during the recent difficult and delicate period through which we have passed in consideration that the time demands deeds and not words. On the basis of this consideration, I would like to state today that my meetings with His Excellency President al-Asad and Brother Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam were useful, positive and fruitful and that we [words indistinct] to define a practical plan to carry out. Minister Khaddam will visit Lebanon after tomorrow to take part with the Lebanese official authorities in actions that include contacts and dialogues to translate the principles of national accord into practice in order to strengthen the state institutions and authority and to eventually, God willing, achieve national accord in practice.

[Question by unidentified person] Mr Minister, [words indistinct], the Israeli aggressions today in addition to the prevailing situation. Have these issues been discussed?

[Butrus] As a matter of course, when we discuss subjects of interest to the two countries our discussion deals with all these matters. With regard to the Israeli aggression, I must strongly condemn them and praise the resistance displayed by the Syrian Air Force in these aggressions. As for the security situation, it was part of the discussions we held. There is no doubt that the activity which we shall undertake will lead to the elimination of all these things to ensure the safety and security of the Lebanese. In this regard I sensed from President al-Asad that he is very interested in this matter and is concerned about all the Lebanese and their safety without any distinction. [end recording]

[Nabil Braks] Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam made the following statement:

[Begin recording] I have nothing to add to the statement of my brother Minister Butrus. He expressed the situation precisely. As he said, we discussed all matters. We hope that in the coming period we can embark on practical steps which can achieve national accord, achieve peace and security in Lebanon and stregnthen the role of the Lebanese state and its institutions and subsequently lead to the strengthening of Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and unity.

[Question by unidentified person] Mr Minister, within this framework much has recently been said about the possibility of your visit to Beirut and your meeting with a number of parties in the Lebanese arena as a first step toward the achievement of national accord. Is this right?

[Khaddam] Yes. As Minister Butrus said, I shall take part with the officials in Beirut in contacts which could lead to national dialogue and then national accord. For this purpose I shall visit Beirut after tomorrow, God willing.

[Question] Is it possible that the security situation could have negative effect on the (?visit)?

[Khaddam] I do not think so. There is determination, as we can see, by His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to exert every effort to achieve security, peace and accord in Lebanon and for all the Lebanese. I think that the great majority of the Lebanese people would like to see an end to this painful and sad situation--not only for the Lebanese but for us also. [end recording]

AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY REACHED ON ZAHLAH CONTROL

NC241417 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] A meeting was held in Shtawrah today of Defense Minister Joseph Skaf, Public Works Minister Ilyas al-Hirawi and Col Muhammad Ghanim. Al-Biqa' Governor Henry Lahhud also attended the meeting. An agreement was reached at the meeting which provides for the internal security forces to assume security responsibilities inside Zahlah, along its international roads and prohibits any armed presence in the city. The agreement will be implemented beginning tomorrow.

SITUATION IN SANNIN, ZAHLAH, SOUTH REPORTED

NC261355 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] The situation on the Sannin Heights is as follows: The battles are still raging round the French redoubt. Field artillery, rocket launchers and tank shells are being used in the clashes. A number of Syrian field artillery 132-mm shells fell this morning on the areas of Biskinta, Farayya and 'Uyun as-Siman. Some shells fell in the outskirts of Bikfayya.

In the morning, Syrian helicopters fired on the Sannin Heights with rockets and Syrian artillery emplacements in 'Aynturah, (Bfillanah) and (Al-Quwani') opened fire toward the French redoubt up to Biskinta. The number of casualties on both sides have not been determined because of the intense fire.

At 1300, the artillery shelling intensified from the (Az-Za'rur hills) and (Mahallat al-Masatib) on one side and the French redoubt and the 'Uyun as-Siman hills, Farayya and (Bakis Canal) on the other. Shortly after midday, there was a rocket attack by Syrian helicopters and the Syrian landings continued on the opposite heights. Moreover, there was sniping from Al-Khinsharah toward (Sharrinn), Az-Zighrin and 'Ayn at-Tuffahah.

A state of cautious calm has been prevailing in Zahlah up to now, although there has been intermittent sniping in the upper part of the township. There has also been sniping from Tallat al-Hammar toward the Hawsh al-Umara' road. Three cars were hit in (Madafin) and a number of persons were wounded. In the industrial city axis, RPG's were fired toward Al-Mu'allaqah.

Syrian military helicopters intensified their sorties from Riyaq airport toward the Jurd area. A girl called (Claude Fu'ad 'Isa) was hit near Mar Niqula quarter in Zahlah by Syrian sniper fire while on her way to church; her leg was fractured. There was intensive sniping in the morning which became intermittent later. Three houses were burned and the paper mill was hit--the mill where fire broke out some time ago.

It has been noticed that the Syrian forces in the As-Salib area of Qa' ar-Rim are sniping at the Syrian forces in Hazzirta on the pretext that it is the inhabitants who are carrying out these attacks. The shelling on Qa' ar-Rim hit 161 housing units out of 165.

The situation in the south is extremely tense: The artillery exchanges which resumed in the morning between the border positions and the Palestinian and leftist artillery emplacements in An-Nabatiyah and Arnun continue intermittently. In addition, there were intensive Israeli overflights before and after noon in the various sectors of the south.

Socialists Fighting at Redoubt

NC251950 Paris AFP in English 1919 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Beirut, 25 Apr (AFP)--The leftist People's National Socialist Party (PNSP) today entered the burgeoning Lebanese civil conflict by attacking conservative Christian militiamen on the western slopes of the mountains about 30 kms (20 miles) northeast of here. The PNSP's intervention, involving artillery duels with Christian forces, extended the scope of the current fighting in Lebanon from the central Christian stronghold of Zahlah and Beirut.

In addition, the PNSP's entry into the fighting represents a new element, for it is the first time since the civil war of 1975-76 that a Lebanese political party has taken sides against Bashir al-Jumayyil's militia. The PNSP, formerly known as the Syrian People's Party, insisted today that it was not acting in concert with the Arab Deterrent Force, which is dominated by the Syrians.

A party spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the PNSP was seeking only to drive the Christian militia out of its area of the mountains.

The spokesman said that the party's principal objective is to seize the "French refuge," an observation post on a mountain peak used during the mandate, which ended when Lebanon received its independence after World War II. According to the PNSP, the Christian Phalagists have taken a strategic position of prime importance in the mountains and the spokesman insisted that they would be driven out of their redoubt.

In addition to artillery, both sides reportedly are using light and heavy mortars as well as automatic weapons. Observers here said that, while the entry of the PNSP into the fighting did not represent a serious escalation, it did suggest that the conflict may spread to other groups that have hitherto remained aloof.

PHALANGISTS DENY SYRIANS CAPTURE LEBANESE AREA

NC251821 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Apr 81

[25 April statement by a responsible source of the Lebanese forces--read by announcer]

[Text] Some news agencies have reported that a group of Syrian nationalists have occupied the (Ghurfat al-Faransawiyah). The Lebanese forces would like to confirm that the report is untrue and that they were still in control of the position. The report was aimed at covering up the aggression waged by the Syrian occupation army in an attempt to control the hills and heights of Lebanon mountain. This was apparent by the type of arms used in the offensive, including armored vehicles and airborne forces. We would like to affirm that all these methods cannot cover up Syria's expansionist objectives. These actions are an extension of the Israeli-Syrian attempts to control Lebanon.

ISRAELI AIR RAID ON SIDON REPORTED 26 APR

NC261415 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] At 1515 today Israeli planes raided several points in Sidon. Our correspondent in Sidon has described the raid as the fiercest in a long time. Clouds of smoke rose high in the raided areas. The raid continued until 1545. The enemy planes drew fierce ground fire.

Further Report

NC261522 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] Our correspondent in Sidon, (Muhammad al-Asad), reported a short while ago that the Israeli air raid in the south at 1510 included, according to initial information, (Hursh al-Buramiyah), (Al-Habadiyah) near (Tallat Sharhabil), (Tilal 'Abra), (Bustan ash-Shaykh), (Duhur 'Alman) and (Bustan al-Mutraniyah). At the same time, the Israeli war planes raided Qal'at Arnun, (Sahl al-Maydanah), (Al-Wadi al-Akhdar), Al-Jarmaq and 'Arab Salim. The Israeli planes are still overflying the south at various altitudes.

At 1330, the Israeli and border artillery shelled the main road which links An-Nabatiyah with Habbush and Az-Zahyani, paralyzing movement on the road. Our southern correspondent also reported that on the whole, the Israeli air raid was aimed at residential areas and that the initial results of the raid were 25 civilian casualties.

Radio on Results

NC261937 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] News agencies reported this evening that after the Israeli air raid this afternoon the Sidon hospitals received 12 dead and more than 30 wounded people. No reports have been received yet on the losses which took place in the An-Nabatiyah area. Quoting its correspondent in the south, AFP reports that the old people's home in (Sharhabil) was one of the targets of the Israeli savage attack.

Tension continues to prevail in the south, and Israeli planes are continuing to fly over the south.

In Beirut, cautious calm prevails and intermittent shots are heard from time to time.

In Zahlah, the situation is improving continuously. However, tension continues to prevail in the northern upper Al-Matn. A short while ago a responsible source in the internal security forces reported that two shells fell in the Al-Ghinah near Juniyah, wounding a girl.

PLANE DOWNED AFTER SYRIAN-ISRAELI DOGFIGHT

NC261542 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] It has been confirmed to the Voice of Lebanon that a plane crashed in Jazzin area a while ago, but that the identity of the plane has not been determined. It has been learned that the plane crashed following a dogfight in An-Nabatiyah airspace between Israeli and Syrian planes.

At 1515 today, Israeli warplanes launched an air raid on the al-Miyah Wa Miyah and Mar Ilyas areas near Sidon. The raid continued for over 1 hour and smoke columns were seen rising from a number of places near Sidon. It has been reported that the Israeli planes carried out more than six sorties and that scores were killed and wounded.

REPORT OF ISRAELI DIVISION IN SOUTH CITED, DENIED

Report Cited

NC241148 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Before reviewing the local events, we refer to vague reports received a short while ago from the south. AFP reported that an Israeli tank division entered Lebanese territory at dawn today and deployed all along the strip bordering Israel. AFP added that the division is estimated at 150 tanks and that its deployment led to about 500 families fleeing to Sidon district.

Radio Denial

NC241309 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] A national news agency correspondent in southern Lebanon has denied the AFP report that 150 Israeli tanks entered Lebanese territory at dawn today. The correspondent said that the security commands concerned have confirmed that this report is false.

DEPUTY'S BROTHER KIDNAPPED IN BA'LABAKK 24 APR

NC242037 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Within the framework of the pressure campaigns against the citizens in the areas under Syrian control in Lebanon, the Syrian forces in Ba'labakk this afternoon kidnapped (Shawqi Yaghi), the brother of the deputy of Ba'labakk and Al-Hirmil, Subhi Yaghi. He was taken to Shtawrah and then to Damascus. Deputy Yaghi held intensive contacts with the president of the republic, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and the prime minister to secure the release of his kidnapped brother.

Meeting on Release Effort

NC251309 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis received at noon today, in the presence of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, defense Minister Joseph Skaf accompanied by the Ba'labakk deputy, Subhi Yaghi. The meeting dealt with the current contacts and efforts to bring back the brother of Deputy Yaghi, who was kidnapped yesterday.

PEASANT FEDERATION'S 5TH CONGRESS HELD IN DAMASCUS

JN261259 [Editorial Report] Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic in a hookup with Syrian television was intercepted at 1115 GMT on 26 April carrying a live broadcast of the opening session of the Syrian Peasant Federation's Fifth Congress from the Trade Union Hall in Damascus, attended by President Hafiz al-Asad.

At 1116 GMT Mustafa al-'Ayid, president of the federation, delivers a speech in which he reviews the federation's achievements in improving the peasants' living and working conditions, setting up cooperative societies and increasing production according to government and party policy. He refers to the Syrian peasants' role in the pan-Arab struggle against foreign conspiracies and condemns Saddam Husayn for waging imperialism's "proxy war" against Iran, King Husayn for training Muslim Brotherhood gangs to commit crimes in Syria and for attempting to replace the PLO, and As-Sadat for betraying the pan-Arab cause. "We are fully confident," he says, "that the masses of our people in Jordan, Iraq and Egypt will not remain silent. They will not permit the renegade puppet regimes to continue to play their role. Our people in Iraq, Egypt and Jordan will rise up to burn with their revolutionary fire these renegade reactionary regimes and those riding on their bandwagon." Al-'Ayid concludes his speech at 1205 GMT by calling on Syrian peasants to rally round the government and the party by carrying out the government policy of increasing production and strengthening the federation's ties with similar Arab organizations.

At 1206 GMT Shakir Sa'id, spokesman of the popular organizations in Syria, delivers a speech in which he praises the Peasant Federation's role in the national and pan-Arab struggle against feudalism and imperialism and reviews achievements on behalf of Syrian peasants. He concludes his speech at 1226 GMT by pledging that the popular organizations in Syria will continue to fight U.S. imperialism and its agents As-Sadat, King Husayn and Saddam Husayn and consolidate ties with the socialist bloc countries, particularly the USSR.

At 1228 GMT Diya' al-Haj 'Ali, secretary general of the Arab Peasants General Federation, delivers a speech in which he praises the Syrian peasants' role in the pan-Arab struggle against feudalism and imperialism within the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation. His speech ends at 1245 GMT.

President al-Asad begins speaking at 1246 GMT and concludes at 1510 GMT by welcoming fraternal and friendly delegations attending the congress.

The live broadcast ends at 1515 GMT.

Al-Asad Address

JN262100 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1246 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Speech by President Hafiz al-Asad at the opening session of the Syrian Peasant Federation's Fifth Congress held in the Trade Union Hall in Damascus on 26 April 1981--live]

[Excerpts] Brother peasants: It pleases me very much to open your conference, meet with you, greet you and greet through you every peasant in this country. [applause] It pleases me very much to meet with the real sons of the earth, those who became attached to the earth, bestowed their efforts on it, watered its soil with their sweat, produced from it food for people and sowed the seed of life in it so that it would bloom and bear fruit for humanity, letting man benefit from the effort of the peasant. [applause]

It pleases me very much to meet with you brother peasants. You are the ones who became attached to the earth. You loved the earth and it loved you. You gave to the earth and it gave to you. You, unlike others, gave the earth your effort and sweat and took crops from the earth for yourselves and others. You watered the earth with your sweat; you brought about good with your hard work; and you protected the homeland with your blood when the agent reaction betrayed the homeland. [applause]

We have destroyed many of the reactionary edifices which had to be destroyed and built many of the progressive edifices which had to be built. [applause] Nevertheless, the road is still long and hard because reaction has its deep economic, political and cultural roots. We must diagnose the disease very well in order to know how to treat it. Reaction has cultural, economic and political roots and we must not be lax, depend on others or get intoxicated with what has been achieved. We must sharpen our endeavors again and move steadily for the sake of uprooting the economic, political and cultural pillars of reaction, because this is a prerequisite for bridging every gap through which reaction can infiltrate to give new life to its hopes and pillars. Simultaneously and while energetically and actively uprooting the roots of reaction, we must continue establishing and developing the edifice of progress.

At the time when I pointed out that we have not built all that should be built, we must refer to another important matter, namely, reaction has not given in to this fait accompli. I said that the peasant, the toiler, is now the master of himself and the one who decides about his own affairs. This is the real state of the Syrian peasant. However, reaction has not accepted or yielded to this fait accompli.

This is a fact we must know. It requires that we be ardently vigilant and ready to exert doubled efforts. The best example of this is reaction's black moves during last year. These moves embodied in shape and content an ominous reactionary onslaught against the march of progress and socialism and the march of the toiling masses. It is still clear that this reactionary movement constitutes a link in an imperialist-Zionist scheme for this egion, a scheme in which Israel plays a major role.

Reaction moved last year in a counterattack, supported by the imperialist and reactionary forces in the region. However, the quick movement of our popular organizations and their firm confrontation of the conspiring reactionaries foiled this scheme, destroyed its link with the Syrian arena and gave further strength and momentum to our popular offices and organizations, headed by the workers and peasants. [applause]

Among the decisions you have made was the one on the formation of your armed peasant groups. [applause] Your quick action and the peasants' awareness and confrontation of the plot prove the great maturity of our peasants and their determination to proceed along the path of building their progressive socialist regime because the issue is that of future and destiny. Your action and confrontation of the plot show your large enlightenment and your possession of an accumulated heritage of struggle. Your splendid confrontation was a deadly stab to the enemies of the toiling masses, enemies of progress and socialism in this country. Your quick moves and quick confrontation of the plot disappointed the agents of the United States and Zionism in this region, particularly among those standing in line waiting for their role and what might be given to them from the crumbs of Camp David. This is some of what resulted from your moves and confrontation of the plot of the reactionary agents, headed by the Muslim Brotherhood gang.

Those who made plans for the reactionaries and the Muslim Brotherhood gang did not succeed in the process of confusing cards because the group of corrupt brothers is a reactionary group. [applause] The corrupt brothers are a suspect reactionary movement having ideas against life and in conflict with the development of life. They have ideas that are completely the opposite of those of Islam. In the first place Islam is a revolution and the religion of the toiling masses. [applause] It cannot be the religion of reactionaries.

Some of those who lay down the ideologies of the Muslim brothers are no more than small agents. They were so even when they were in Syria. The biggest thinkers of the Muslim Brotherhood gang are now there with the kind of Jordan because, as you know, both live in the American house. They used to get a monthly salary from Syrian intelligence. I say to you that the one who used to pay the 500-Syrian-pound monthly salary to that philosopher, who claims to be Muslim, is with us here in this hall, as he was in the security organ at that time. [applause]

Now the philosopher writes, saying that he is the father of Islam and we are outside Islam and Muslims. Of course, we pay 500 pounds and others pay more.

The reactionaries lost their battle, the battle of dying. They lost the battle, which they waged while dying. They lost this battle despite the U.S. dollars, despite the imperialist technology and despite the important fact that they were headed by a gallant and shrewd officer, the marshal of east Jordan. [applause]

We can only praise the marshal of east Jordan because he supplied us with every good. Remember him well, brother peasants, and let all citizens in this country remember him because we in Syria and the Arabs in general must not forget gratitude, especially since this man is greatly pained over peoples' pains and particularly the pains of the toiling masses. Therefore, he could not just take the stand of an onlooker toward us as we in Syria are facing the Arabs' enemy unilaterally. He decided to send us aid, and he sent us several things. He sent us in Syria much aid, large offers. He sent us quantities of bullets of various kinds; quantities of various weapons, including rifles and revolvers; rifles of various types, including the Israeli Uzi. He sent us revolvers with silencers because he seemed to have wanted to spare those killed among our sons some agony. It was hard for him to have them disturbed by the noise of bullets when killed. He wanted them to die without noise. Therefore, he sent us revolvers with silencers. He also took upon himself the task of setting up some camps, although he stands along the longest borders with the Israeli enemy, as he says. Of course, at the same time, he supplies the largest barrier in protection of the Israeli enemy. Although he is hard up, he established camps for us and trained for us a number of Syrian citizens.

Not every citizen is considered fit for training by the marshal of east Jordan. He chose from among the loyal citizens those who were free of all nationalist and pan-Arab restrictions, because they are reactionary restrictions in his view. He chose those who were no longer bound by the restrictions of the homeland, the nation and religion. He chose the enlightened, who gained their enlightenment from their continuous contact with the advanced instruments in the world, especially the security apparatus in the United States of America. You know that the United States of America is an advanced state. These Syrian citizens, who were trained by the marshal of east Jordan, have continuous contact and collaboration with the security apparatus in the United States of America and with its extensions in the area. Therefore, they are enlightened. Husayn the king tried them. He also bore the burden of offering some financial aid to those trainees.

These are some of his offerings to us, and that is only a small part of the whole which Husayn the king gave to us. That is why we cannot at all forget him. Our laborers and peasants, our youth, students, teachers and all factions of the people in this country must remember Husayn the king.

I do not know whether the time is near when this marshal will realize that his name is not King Husayn, but Husayn Abu Malik. Perhaps this expression is unclear. [applause] Believe me, I have not heard this expression for 30 years. I know it from the days when I was in the village. In our village there was somebody referred to as Abu Malik. It seems that Comrade Rafiq az-Zu'bi knows what the expression Abu Malik means. [applause]

Marshal Husayn will realize that he is Abu Malik because he got so deeply involved in his conspiracies against Syria, for the stabs which he directed against us in this country have never been struck at us in our modern history, nor were they even struck at us throughout our history. The murders of which he was the main planner and abettor, have not been known to us throughout the history of Syria. So how can we forget the favors of this Husayn the king? [poetry by member of audience, applause]

At any rate, this is not the first time that the reactionary Jordanian regime has stabbed this country in the back. This is not the first time. The reactionary Jordanian regime was primarily established to dismember Syria. The reactionary regime in Jordan was primarily established to dismember the Syrian body.

We and Jordan are one country, one people and one thing. The British brought the grandfather of King Husayn, carved up a part of Syria for him and told him you are now amir of this piece of land. Thus, he became the amir of the Transjordan Amirate. That regime has been the enemy of Syria and the Syrian people right from the beginning. Whoever is the enemy of Syria and the Syrian people is the enemy of the Arab nation. [applause]

They severed Transjordan from us and called it an amirate. But have they been able to separate us from our people in Jordan? Certainly not. Our people in Jordan are a great, noble people. Nothing links them to that king. The people are with their homeland, and the king is with something else. The people are with themselves, the people, and the king is not with the people. His eye always looks outside. What connection is there between our people in Jordan and the so-called king of Jordan? Our people in Jordan are with us and we are with our people in Jordan. The whole of the concern of the king, his regime and the group of agents in his orbit is to create a battle between us and the Jordanian people. The Jordanian people now have nothing to do with the decision made by the Jordanian regime. But the day will come, perhaps very soon, when the Jordanian people will regain their right to make decisions. When that day comes, when the Jordanian people regain their usurped right to make decisions, King Husayn will find that we are one people. We will return to one another. Then, we will join our kinfolk in Jordan and the king will join his folk wherever they may be.

The people of Jordan, brothers, do not rule themselves. The job of ruling is carried out away from them and decisions are made for them. Explanation is necessary so that no one will say that maybe this talk comes within the context of creating confusion and excitability.

How do the people rule themselves? How do the people practice democracy? How do they enjoy freedom? If Husayn the king and his instruments try to leave things obscure and disorganized, we in Syria have bypassed this phase. When we repeat words, we want them to be very clear to everyone because these things are not personal property. They are the property of the people, society, the masses. How do the people practice their freedom and democracy, and how do they participate in ruling?

The people participate in ruling and practice decisionmaking through their popular organizations, their party organizations and their elected democratic institutions. The people's rule, then, is practiced through popular and party organizations and elected democratic institutions. [applause]

According to the king's rule in Jordan, these things are banned. Then how will our Jordanian people exercise their right in the various types of national decisions? If their popular organizations and parties are without a role because they are banned and if their democratic institutions are without a role because they do not exist, then in what way and in what manner can we imagine our people in Jordan exercising any role or rather having any decision with regard to the policy of the Jordanian marshal? If the popular organizations and the party organizations are without a role and if the democratic institutions are not elected and do not exist, then where is the people's role?

Now brother peasants, you have the power to decide anything related to the land and agricultural issues. You make all the decisions which you find appropriate and in the interests of the nation and peasants. To explain this, let us give examples.

Last year you decided to lower the ceiling on land as property by about 30 percent. The decision was made and the law was decreed in accordance with your decision. This is a great issue. Let us give another example in order that people might not say that this is mere propaganda. When we say that we exercise people's authority, we must also practice what we preach. When we say that peasants are the decisionmakers, we must show this in practice. This is what we did and are still doing. Can the Jordanian peasants make such decisions? Why can't they? Aren't we the same people with the same history and geography? Does this reactionary monarchy have the right to continue its usurpation of the Jordanian peasants' natural rights?

Let us give another example. Let us take the students. Our university students, along with their teachers, decide the scientific, political and party issues. In the universities we have a party organization that has pyramidal leadership structures. Through this structure, the partisan students and teachers carry out party, political and scientific activities. In the universities we also have a political organization in the form of a students' union. Through this union any student can carry out political activities.

There is no education or politics without a democracy. Nothing will be worth living if there is no democracy. Democracy means taking part in decisionmaking. Our students, along with their teachers, decide university policy, education and administration. The Jordanian students are far from such a state. Why can't the reactionary Jordanian regime give the students their leading role? Of course, I know why. It is because the regime is reactionary. But how long will this regime continue to usurp the people's rights?

In order to save time I am not going to review the activities of our organizations, our youth, teachers, craftsmen and women. These are only examples which show what we do in Syria. They show the real exercise of people's authority.

Why does the reactionary Jordanian regime continue its usurpation of the people's authority? I have not dealt with the elected popular democratic organizations such as the local administration councils and the People's Assembly. Where are these in Jordan? Where is freedom in Jordan? There is only one sort of freedom, namely, each Jordanian citizen can declare whenever he pleases: his majesty our master. He can also repeat: God, king, people. King is first and the people are second. Therefore, any speech about freedom, democracy and people's rule is empty talk and nonsense. Unless the elected democratic institutions come to power so that the people can exercise their authority through them, there will not be any democracy. Can the regime of King Husayn continue forever to usurp the authority of the Jordanian people, our Jordanian people's right to their authority? He will not be able to do that because our people in Jordan will not always be ruled against their own will. Their destiny and future cannot be decided upon in their absence. They will regain their right. At that time King Husayn will discover that we are one people and that his majesty was no more than a passing, dark and rainless cloud in our historic march.

Brother peasants, there has been much talk about Lebanon recently. It is empty talk that is planned and has fabricated reasons. Regrettably, some people in Lebanon move within the framework of this scheme, although the result is only additional difficulties and tragedies from which our people in Lebanon are suffering. It is obvious that Israel is trying to exploit this situation in its interests. We in Syria exerted in the past serious efforts and sacrifices in order to help this fraternal country and our people in Lebanon. We will continue to exert such efforts. Reactions will not govern our stands and decisions. I want to stress to all that our people in Syria will remain by the side of Lebanon and its people, sharing with them what is good and bad. I stress that the objectives we announced in 1976 when we entered Lebanon, most prominent of which were stopping the civil war, protecting the Palestinian resistance and enabling the state to spread its authority over all Lebanese territory, are still our guide today and will remain our guide in the future. [applause]

We will exert all possible efforts in the forthcoming stage, following the same past path for the sake of achieving these objectives. However, we ask and hope that the others will cooperate with us in this and exert similar efforts. We in Syria bear no grudge against anyone. We are with every side in Lebanon in as much as this side is with Lebanon because here lies the interest of Lebanon in the first place and Syria afterward. [applause] There will be no contradiction between us and any side in Lebanon that is seriously with Lebanon. We hope that all will exert efforts similar to ours and feel the basic interests of Lebanon and its Arab people in the short and long run alike.

KHADDAM, AL-ASAD RECEIVE LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER

Khaddam Meeting

JN260920 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, at 1000 today received Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, who arrived in Damascus this morning on a short visit to Syria.

The Lebanese minister was welcomed at the Syrian-Lebanese border post by senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Al-Asad Talks

JN270611 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Apr

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus at 1900 yesterday. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, attended the meeting.

The discussion dealt with the situation in Lebanon in all its aspects and the measures required to achieve the Lebanese people's interests, to foil the schemes of all those who wish Lebanon harm, to protect Lebanon's unity, to stress its Arab character and to foil the designs of the Zionist enemy against it.

In a statement before his departure from Damascus last night, Fu'ad Butrus said that his meetings with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam were fruitful and positive. He added: We have gone beyond the stage of concepts to the stage of defining practical steps that we shall implement. Khaddam, he added, will visit Lebanon tomorrow to participate with the official Lebanese authorities in holding contacts and dialogue for translating into practice the principles of the Lebanese national reconciliation.

Fu'ad Butrus also praised the Syrian Arab Air Force's confrontation of the aggressive raids carried out by the Israeli Air Force against Lebanon yesterday. He said: I have sensed from his excellency the president that he is concerned about Lebanon and the safety of its territory and people without any discrimination.

Khaddam also made a statement in which he said: We have discussed with Fu'ad Butrus all matters concerning national reconciliation and the establishment of peace and security in Lebanon. We hope that this will consolidate Lebanon's independence, security and unity. Khaddam added: Presidents al-Asad and Sarkis are determined to exert all efforts to achieve peace, security and national reconciliation for all the Lebanese people.

TWO ISRAELI AIRCRAFT REPORTEDLY SHOT DOWN

JN261846 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: At 1545 today, 26 April 1981, Israeli enemy planes attempted to bomb the Palestinian camps in Ad-Damur and Sidon. Our planes immediately confronted then, prevented them from carrying out their objective and forced them to flee after shooting down two of them, one of which was seen falling into the sea west of Sidon and the other inside the occupied homeland. One of our planes was hit. The rest of our planes returned safely to base.

CABINET, OFFICIALS CONSIDER AWACS SUPPLY ISSUE

Cabinet Expresses Opposition

TA261118 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] The Cabinet's weekly session ended a short time ago with a resolution to adopt the line being taken by Israel on the question of arms supplies to Saudi Arabia:

[Begin recording] [Government Secretary Arye Na'or] Israel is firmly opposed to the proposals concerning the sale of offensive arms and sophisticated intelligence-gathering planes to Saudi Arabia, a country that is against the peace [treaty between Israel and Egypt] and against the Camp David accords. [end recording]

The government secretary referred reporters to the remarks made by the prime minister on this matter. Besides the arms issue, the Cabinet also discussed several procedural matters.

Further Report

TA261743 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 26 Apr 81

[By political correspondent Gad Becker--live]

[Text] Let us begin with Lebanon. While the situation in Beirut continues to deteriorate a situation of a ping pong exchange of strikes, as it is defined, is coming to prevail between the warring sides in southern Lebanon. As for the Syrian attacks on the mountain region in Lebanon, it is hoped in Israel that this is not a new, full-scale Syrian offensive. Political circles nevertheless note that there is a new dimension in events there. This dimension is expressed in the operation of Syrian combat helicopters there. Another assessment heard from senior political elements is combined with criticism about declarations and publications recently issued in Israel that indicated that Israel has adopted a position of restraint regarding events in Lebanon according to the political elements. It is not impossible that the Syrians heard and interpreted these remarks and allowed themselves to expand their offensives against the Christians. Israel's monitoring of events in Lebanon is continuing. The Cabinet ministers were updated on the latest developments there during today's Cabinet meeting.

The major topic discussed by the Cabinet today was the struggle against the AWACS deal. All ministers agreed that Israel's information campaign should be continued. Even if not all believe that this campaign will lead to the cancellation of the deal, Israel still has to keep up its efforts in order, at least, to strengthen its supporters in the U.S. public and Senate and to keep emphasizing the security dangers inherent in this deal. Ministers emphasize today that Israel is not seeking a confrontation with the U.S. administration. It was agreed between the two parties in the past that disagreements will be discussed without crises. It was reported in the Cabinet meeting today that the United States suggested to Israel that some security compensation be discussed so as to remove Israel's opposition to the deal. However, the Israeli position is that continued efforts should be made against the implementation of this deal. In the Cabinet meeting one of the ministers dwelled on a contradiction existing in the U.S. information campaign lately: on the one hand we hear that the AWACS planes will be flown by U.S. crews while, on the other hand, the Americans calm us by saying that Israel will be able to intercept the AWACS in time of war. Can Israel intercept an AWACS plane flown by a U.S. crew? the minister asked.

Tzipori Remarks

TA261240 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Report by David Essing--recorded]

[Text] Prime Minister Begin and Foreign Minister Shamir today briefed their colleagues on the latest contacts with American officials, both in Jerusalem and Washington. The Cabinet then reaffirmed its policy of totally opposing the arms deal. Israeli officials will continue to voice their opposition. And, after the session, Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori, who favors a tough line, said Israel trusts that Congress will not approve the administration's proposal.

In answer to a reporter's question, Tzipori said Israel has to do what it can to prevent the sale. If it did go through, Israel would also have to find solutions.

Asked to comment on the latest Syrian attacks in Lebanon, Tzipori repeated that Israel would continue its support of the Christians.

The deputy defense minister was also asked about a recent statement by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egypt's foreign minister. 'Ali had said that Israel now has 27 atomic bombs. Tzipori replied that from time to time there are what he calls crazy stories like this. The 'Ali statement was another one. Tzipori implied that Egypt was in a poor state of affairs if its foreign minister was making such statements.

The Cabinet also discussed the situation in Lebanon today.

Ministers' Views

TA261540 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] Cabinet members emphasized after today's Cabinet session that Israel does not view the argument with the United States regarding the arms to Saudi Arabia as a confrontation but merely as a legitimate argument between two allies. The ministers were speaking with political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer.

At the same time, however, several ministers condoned during the Cabinet session the strong line Israel ought to adopt toward the U.S.-Saudi deal.

Minister Hammer said that if Israel thought that the AWACS planes might badly affect it, it mustn't be intimidated by the concept of confrontation and should do everything to abort the deal. Ministers Shostak and Shamir expressed themselves in a similar vein.

Dr Surg said on the other hand that if the United States does not supply the hardware to Saudi Arabia, it will be done by the Soviet Union and, hence, there is no choice left. However, he also deems it necessary that Israel should present its view to the public in the United States.

In the end the Cabinet decided to adopt the strong line against the sale of U.S. AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia.

Shamir Report

TA261953 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] In Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir disclosed in today's Cabinet session that from what he had been told during his visit in Washington it couldn't be deduced that a decision had been taken on the supply of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia. He also said that Secretary of State Alexander Haig's statement during his visit to Israel at the beginning of this month made it possible to understand that the administration was ready to reconsider the deal.

IDF Spokesman

TA260704 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Excerpts] The Cabinet will today hear reports on the steps taken in the wake of the White House announcement on the sale of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia. In connection with the government's decision to wage a struggle against the AWACS deal, the IDF spokesman has stated that their sale to Saudi Arabia will expose the Israeli Air Force to constant observation and will enable the Saudis to collect detailed data on training and on preparedness flights. The IDF spokesman said that there is no doubt that this information will be passed on to all the confrontation states. If the Saudis also have F-15 planes equipped with offensive instruments, they will be able to take part in a war against Israel without much danger to themselves. Our political correspondent adds that at the beginning of next month the talks on the formation of the Sinai multinational force will be resumed in Washington as the date approaches for the completion of the IDF's withdrawal from Sinai.

'Senior' Source

TA260903 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Apr 81 p 1

[By political correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Text] Israel will continue to act openly among U.S. administration circles, in the House of Representatives and in the Senate so that when the AWACS aircraft deal with Saudi Arabia is brought before Congress for approval it will be rejected.

This morning Prime Minister Menahem Begin will report to the Cabinet on his meeting last week with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis on the issue. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will report on contacts the Israel ambassador to the United States, Efrayim 'Evron, has had on the issue as well as other actions taken in the United States, including meetings of U.S. Jewish leaders with the U.S. secretaries of state and defense.

Jerusalem has noted that all the U.S. arguments to appease Israel are unsatisfactory because when the AWACS aircraft are deployed, even if they are not deployed for another 8 years, they will constitute flying radar stations whose collected information on what is being done in Israel might endanger its safety.

A senior Jerusalem element last night summed up the arguments with which the United States has been trying to calm Israel:

--The supply of AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabia will only take place in 1985, and they will become operational only later, in 1989.

--If Israel regards the AWACS aircraft activity as a threat to it, it will have no problem eliminating them, because Israel enjoys aerial superiority.

--In order for the AWACS to be able to collect information on Israeli military activity and installations, they have to be stationed in an upper western point of the Arabian peninsula, but then they would be endangering their own existence.

--Particularly sophisticated parts will have been removed from the AWACS.

--The United States will supervise and control the use of data gathered by the AWACS because in order to implement the information collected by them it will be necessary to pass them through a U.S. terminal.

To repeat, these arguments cannot soothe Israel and weaken its concern. Its activity to foil the administration's decision to supply the AWACS to Saudi Arabia will, as a result, continue.

AIR FORCE ATTACKS 'TERRORIST' BASES IN LEBANON

TA261530 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] In the afternoon the air force planes attacked terrorist concentrations about 2 km northeast of Sidon and on the An-Nabatiyah plateau. Our pilots returned safely to their base and reported accurate hits. Our correspondent reports that one of the bases that was attacked, Al-Hilaliyah, is a base in a deserted, unpopulated area where the Palestinian Liberation Army is organizing. There is a large number of tanks, tents and tank carriers in this base, which is subordinate to Fatah. The second base, in the An-Nabitiyah area, belongs to Ahmad Jibril's organization [the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] and it is from this base that many of the Katyushas directed at southern Lebanon have been fired recently. Rocket launchers and antiaircraft artillery as well as an army camp that had previously served the Lebanese Army and was deserted later are located there.

Dogfight Denied

TA261913 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] Syria officially announced about half an hour ago that it lost a MiG-23-type plane in the air over Lebanon. The spokesman of the Syrian Army attributed this to a dogfight with an Israeli Air Force aircraft. Israeli military sources, however, denied that a dogfight had taken place.

The Syrians further announced that they shot down two Israeli planes and this claim, too, was denied by the IDF spokesman.

Earlier the Beirut Christian radio station reported the crash of a Syrian fighter plane near one of the villages in Lebanon's southern chain of mountains at about the same time that the Israeli Air Force attacked terrorist targets near Sidon.

'Terrorist' Missile

TA270617 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Report by station radio monitor Mikha'el Gurdus--recorded]

[Excerpt] As regards the Syrian MiG-23 that crashed yesterday in the (Hashuf) area, west of Sidon, it appears that it was hit accidentally by a surface-to-air missile fired by the terrorists.

TOUGHER STANCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON REPORTED

TA270828 Tal Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 27 Apr 81 p 1

[By a political correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Text] Israel has decided to toughen the stance it has adopted in southern Lebanon because last week's reports saying that Israel will act to restrain military activity in southern Lebanon and calm the situation have apparently influenced Syria and caused the Syrian fighting in Lebanon to expand.

Israel's policy in southern Lebanon will continue to lean toward calming the situation but at the same time Israel will continue to strike the terrorists and will not allow the Christians to be hit.

Elements who follow events in Lebanon noted that the Syrian Army has lately developed two new dimensions in its war against the Christians in Lebanon:

A. In Zahlah the Syrians attacked certain Christian positions using helicopters.

B. The Syrians have begun shelling the Al-Juniyah port, through which the Christians receive most of their supplies.

According to elements who study the situation in Lebanon, these developments constitute a certain escalation and events are being carefully watched.

SECURITY ELEMENTS WEIGH SYRIAN MOVES IN LEBANON

TA261222 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Apr 81 p 1

[By Arab affairs correspondent 'Oded Granot]

[Text] Israeli security elements have been examining the possibility that the Syrians might try to exploit their current offensive against the Christian strongholds in the Lebanon valley and the Lebanon hills in order to breach one of the components of the "red line" posed by Israel.

These components have never been officially defined but Israel took pains to explain to the Syrians that it would object to any Syrian activity in Lebanon that might constitute a threat to Israel's security.

Israeli elements have said that if it transpires that the Syrians have indeed been striving to conduct certain actions that would constitute a violation of the "tacit agreement" regarding the "red line" in Lebanon, this might have a significant impact on Israel's freedom to act inside Lebanon.

SAUDIS SUPPLYING FATAH WITH ARMS, VEHICLES

TA260855 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Apr 81 p 1

[By military correspondent]

[Text] Saudi Arabia has transferred to "Fatah" arms, ammunition and explosives as well as military vehicles in an effort to strengthn the PLO's military wing. Riyahd similarly permits Palestinian youths, studying in Saudi Arabia, to leave for "Fatah" military training bases in Syria during the holiday recesses.

Saudi Arabia's activity in aiding the PLO's military wing has been known for some time. Whereas domestically Riyadh has been trying to create the impression that the aid to the PLO is merely limited to the political sphere, it has been known that Riyadh also extends financial aid and has been transferring ammunition to the PLO's military wing: This constitutes clear support for that organization's terrorist acitivity.

As for the transfer of the military equipment, the reference is to light arms manufactured in the West, ammunition and a lot of explosive material as well as various types of vehicles. "Fatah" has set up three offices in Saudi Arabia in the cities of Riyadh, Jidda and Ad-Dammam.

It has recently become known that so far Saudi Arabia has given the PLO approximately $200 million, of which about $33 million is slated for what is called "strengthening the firm stand of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip." The major bulk of that money was transferred to the PLO coffers in Beirut.

Saudi Arabia has also pledged to grant the PLO an annual sum of $85 million in the future. The support funds are transferred to a fund known as "the Palestinian national fund" that allocates money to various terrorist organizations besides "Fatah." In addition to that, the Saudis have been transferring 5 percent of the Saudi-employed Palestinians' income to the PLO.

ALGERIA

FATAH MOVEMENT'S AZ-WAZIR INTERVIEWED BY APS

LD251342 Algiers APS in English 1121 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Algiers, 25 Apr (APS)--Mr Khalil Al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), "Fatah" movement Central Committee member, deputy commander-in-chief of Palestinian revolutionary forces, declared that the talks with Algerian party's and state's officials, at their head President Chadli Bendjedid, were very important, especially at a moment when the situation is stressed by imperialo-Zionist attacks agains the Palestinian cause.

In an interview with the Algerian news agency (APS), the Palestinian official pointed at the importance of his visit to Algeria, indicating that the Palestinian delegation informed President Chadli Bendjedid on the developments of the Palestinian struggle and its achievements, notably after the 15th congress of the Palestinian National Council (parliament) of which aim was to strengthen the unity of Palestinian ranks. In this respect, the Palestinian delegation informed the Algerian head of state on the nature of the military aggression (?perpetrated? by the Zionist and isolationist militia against south Lebanon, and on the prevailing situation in occupied Arab territories.

Abu Jihad stressed that his talks with Algerian officials allowed him [word indistinct] Algeria's attachment to the Palestinian cause as well as its steadfast position beside the legitimate struggle for recovering its national rights. "Algeria follows the developments in the Middle-East," he added.

The Palestinian official also pointed the fact that the Israeli-isolationist military escalation in south Lebanon mainly aims at throwing off the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese National Movement. As concerns the decisions of the Palestinian National Council 15 session, he stated that they aim at counteracting the imperialo-Zionist challenges against the Palestinian people and at resolving the problems faced by the Palestinian revolution on the international politics field.

Abu Jihad indicated that this session also confirmed the Palestinian political movement of which starting point is the battlefield. "Because every achievement recorded on the diplomatic or political plane is the reflection of military victories achieved on the battlefield against Zionism," he argued.

Questioned on what can be expected from the next European initative, Abu Jihad said that at this very moment there is no clear European initiative, it is only a [word indistinct] of ideas which contents draw nearer to the Venice communique. In this respect, he declared that Europe can't clear its position towards the Palestinian question because of the Common Market's diveregencies and because of American pressures of which aim is to make every European step scheduled within the framework of the process launched at Camp David.

As concerns the Iraq-Iran conflict, Abu Jihad said that it serves imperialo-Zionist interests as well as it weakens the Palestinian cause at a moment when it is needed to join all Arab and Moslem efforts to make this cause (the Palestinian) triumph, by checking the imperialo-Zionist plots aiming at the liquidation of the Palestinian cause and at diverting the Arabo-Moslem world from its own development.

MOROCCAN, ALGERIAN TROOPS REPORTEDLY CLASH 20 APR

NC241044 Paris AFP in English 1029 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Algiers, 24 Apr (AFP)--Moroccan forces were today unofficially reported to have clashed with Algerian troops after striking into Algeria in pursuit of Polisario guerrillas from Western Sahara, sparking tension along the border. The clash, which according to converging but officially unconfirmed reports here today occurred last Monday, in Algeria's Tindouf region, would mean a sharp escalation of differences between the two north African neighbours.

Polisario has bases in the Tindouf region from which it operates in its fight against Moroccan control of Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony.

According to today's reports, which did not indicate the extent or exact location of the clash, Algerian forces had since Monday been placed on alert throughout the country and confined to barracks.

King Hassan of Morocco has several times claimed a "right of pursuit" of Polisario guerrillas, but is not recently known to have exercised it.

Algerian officials today refused all comment on the reports, but a diplomatic source here said the border was now believed to be virtually closed, with Morocco refusing to admit anyone from Algeria.

LIBYA

COMMENTARY ATTACKS U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, RDF

[Unattributed commentary]

LD261258 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Excerpts] In the past 24 hours news agencies have reported statements by the Pentagon in Washington regarding the U.S. decision to set up an independent command of the Rapid Deployment Force. Reports say the Pentagon is now studying the possibility of transferring combat troops to the Arabian Gulf region. U.S. Defense Department sources have explained that the completion of the forces and their full deployment will take place in the near future.

The question of the Rapid Deployment Force is not new to the United States' foreign policy map, particularly in the last 3 years, because the U.S. administration's approach to this issue and its intention to implement it assumed a serious nature through practical steps which began with a speech by former U.S. President Carter in December, 1979, in which he presented the plan for what he termed the Rapid Deployment Force. In January, 1980, came the U.S. declaration that it was prepared to embark on offensive military operations in the Arabian Gulf area within the framework of a project named the Carter principle--to which the former U.S. president resorted as a face-saving operation in the wake of the worsening crisis of the American hostages in Tehran, and at a time when the U.S. presidential elections were approaching.

For 30 years U.S. policy on the Gulf region remained within the limits of muscle parading, military balances and statements of threats and intimidation, or raising the big stick without actually using it. It was a policy at whose limits former President Carter was anxious to stop; he was anxious not to go beyond those limits onto a dangerous path, as his predecessor Nixon did in the Vietnamese war, for example.

Then Ronald Reagan came to the helm of the U.S. administration. The new American President's first steps toward the White House were a series of statements which were described in general as a military propaganda war. Soon he proceeded to put that old American concept into practice, through a number of trends. These began by interfering in the question of the security of the Arabian Gulf and the Indian Ocean region; then the trend toward open military interference in El Salvador--an attempt which was coupled with precautions so as not to slip into another Vietnam-like situation; and lastly, c me the tour of his secretary of state, Haig, in the Arab region, which took place at the time of the recent Lebanese events in Zahlah, Beirut and the south. In fact, the explosion of the situation in Zahlah is regarded as one of the elements which prepared for Haig's tour; a situation which the United States used to put pressure on some of the parties concerned when discussing the permanent or continuous presence of U.S. forces in the region, and in the Gulf in particular.

During and after Haig's visit, the question of supplying Saudi Arabia with the AWACS spy planes was raised and is the subject of study and preparation.

In this the White House ignored the Zionist opposition and decided to hand the aircraft over to Saudi Arabia, under conditions, dictated by the U.S. Congress to the effect that the crew of these aircraft must be American with regard to administration and technical work. In other words, they must remain directly under control of the Pentagon; or perhaps there could be a compromise in which, by setting up a joint command, the American side would have absolute majority by virtue of its traditional military influence on Saudi Arabia and also because the AWACS aircraft is a strategic weapon of NATO, and the U.S. in particular, in the military confrontation between the two superpowers.

The United States is now moving at record speed toward militarizing its foreign policy and imposing it by force of influence and terrorism on the peoples of the Third World and the Arab region in particular. The Reagan administration is (?implementing) this by means of the steps it takes every now and then to bridge the gap between deployment of the Rapid Deployment Force and the possibilities available, and especially outside the circle of U.S. [word indistinct].

The first stage in implementing this project requires the presence of 15,000 men from the 82d Division in additon to 19,000 men from the 101st Airborne Division, relying for their transportation on 971 huge transport aircraft. The question of making these aircraft available is still a problem besetting the full implementation of the project.

One matter remains, an essential one: It is the United States insistence on placing the world, and the Arab region in particular, at the front of a line of (?resistance) and self-defense which is dictated by the honor of belonging to the homeland and by dignity.

AL-QADHDHAFI LEAVES FOR VISIT TO MOSCOW 26 APR

LD261542 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1524 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Apr (JANA)--The leader of the revolution left for Moscow today for a visit to the USSR at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee and the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and in implementation of the resolution of the fourth summit conference of the pan-Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. He is to contact the USSR in the name of the front and discuss the means of developing and deepening the relations of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and the confrontation states.

AL-QADHDHAFI CALLS ON ARABS TO FIGHT ISRAEL

LD241328 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Cable from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Arab presidents and kings--date not given]

[Text] The situation in Lebanon is one of external armed aggression on an independent state which is a member of the Arab League. This demands from the league's member states direct military action in repelling this aggression, in accordance with the league's charter. The league's member states must therefore send openly and in a regular manner naval, air and land forces and air defense units; fighting must start immediately against the invading Israeli forces, which are occupying Arab territories.

Watching Israeli warships attack Lebanon's coast and its civilian ports and sink merchant ships of their choice and watching daily Israeli raids destroy Sidon, Tyre, Beirut and the refugee camps is the ultimate humiliation for anybody who has an Arab name. It is also the worse type of surrender by all those who hold Arab scepters. If the Arab governments do not decide to fight, then anybody, man or woman, who has some Arab dignity, origin and heritage must tread on the scepters, cross frontiers and head for Lebanon and Palestine to either kill or be killed.

Your brother, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

MAURITANIA

CMSN ENDS CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT, APPROVES LAWS

LD252302 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Excerpts] The chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation received today Sidi Ahmed Ould Bneijara, the prime minister, to inform him of the CMSN decision to end the term of the transitional civilian government so that he himself may lead the country along the road toward democracy, in order to avoid the consequences of confusion and the attempts of the forces of hegemony. On the other hand, Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, CMSN chairman, praised the praiseworthy work of the civilian government. A final important communique was issued tonight after the meeting of the CMSN and we have just finished translating it. Here is the text:

The CMSN met in a regular session on Friday and Saturday under Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, CMSN chairman and chief of state. The committee made a study in depth of the internal and external conditions of the country and recorded the following notes:

Tension has become more dangerous during the past months in our area as a result of developments in the Western Sahara crisis, the conflict from which our country disengaged itself forever. Moroccan expansionism has assumed a new aspect characterized by the aggression of 16 March against our country. Colonialist ambitions have become more encompassing in Africa, and in particular in northeast Africa, dragging unstable currents in their wake. The world economic crisis has also become more acute, and its reflections on developing countries are now measured in each case by the firmness of the country's administration. Our administration has persisted in not conforming with the clear directives issued by the CMSN despite the praiseworthy efforts made by the government.

From the premise of its historic responsibilities before the armed forces and the people, the CMSN has decided to end the term of the transitional civilian government and to lead the country on the road to democracy, to avoid the consequences of confusion and the attempts of the hegemonist forces. The CMSN is determined to implement a firm policy in running the affairs of the state in order to reduce the reflections of the international economic crisis on our country. Also, the committee studied and approved the following draft laws:

Draft Law 157, calling for the ratification of the treaty of (Tamwit) signed between the Mauritanian Islamic Republic and the Economic Community of West African States; Draft Law 158, calling for the ratification of the treaty of (Tamwit) signed between the Mauritanian Islamic Republic and the West African Economic Community; Draft Law 159, on the ratification of the protocol of the cooperation agreement signed by the Mauritanian Islamic Republic and the League for African National Development and Construction; Draft Law 161, setting the taxation system applicable to project [word indistinct]; Draft Law 162, concerning the loan agreement to finance the project [word indistinct]; Draft Law 163, pertaining to approval of the constituent measure of the International Industrial Development Organization; Draft Law 164, completing Article (?267) of the civil, commercial and administrative measures law; Draft Law 165, concerning ratification of the transfer agreement signed by the Central Bank of Mauritania and the Central Bank of [word indistinct]; Draft Law 166, concerning ratification of the supplement to the treaty of [word indistinct] signed between the Mauritanian Islamic Republic and France;

Draft Law 167, concerning ratification of the establishment of the African Organization for [words indistinct]; Draft Law 171, concerning the ratification of the treaty signed by the Mauritanian Islamic Republic and the Arab Minerals Company [word indistinct]; Draft Law 172, concerning the treaty on the loan signed in Algiers on 5 February 1981 by the Mauritanian Islamic Republic and the Popular and Democratic Republic of Algeria; Draft Law 173, concerning ratification of the loan for financing part of the (?Qarqar) project; Draft Law 174, concerning ratification of the loan agreement between the Mauritanian Islamic Republic and the Iraqi Fund for Foreign Development, dated 12 February 1981; and Draft Law 175, concerning approval of the loan agreement signed on 17 March 1981 by the Iraqi Government and the Mauritanian Islamic Republic to finance Mauritania's balance of payments.

The CMSN has entrusted the executive authority to Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala and it has approved the following government:

Prime minister and defense minister, Lt Col Maaouya Ould Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya; foreign affairs and cooperation minister, Navy Capt Dahhan Ould Ahmed Mahoud; minister of justice and Islamic affairs, Abdel Aziz Ould Ahmed; interior minister, Maj (Gabriel Santir); minister of fisheries, Lt Col Soumare Silman; minister of industries and commerce, Capt Mohamed Mahmoud Ould (Day); minister of the economy and finance, (Jeng Boubou Kharda); minister of rural development, Mohamed Ould Amar; minister of water and housing, Mahjoub Ould (Bayyih); minister of equipment, transport and communications, (Dafqah Bakari); minister of mines and energy, Sidi al-Mokhtar Ould Zamel; minister of employment and cadre training, Yahya Ould Menkouss; minister of national education, Hasni Ould Didi; general controller of state, Maj (Anne Amadou Babaly); secretary general of the premiership, Mohamed (Ya'day) Ould Barid al-Layl. Maj Mohamed Sidina Ould Sidiya has been appointed permanent secretary of the CMSN at the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications. Finally, Sidi Ahmed Ould Bneijara has been appointed minister-adviser to the chairman of the CMSN and chief of state.

MOROCCO

REPORT OF MILITARY CLASH WITH ALGERIA DENIED

NC250655 Paris AFP in English 0644 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Rabat, 25 Apr (AFP)--Morocco denied unofficial reports in Algiers Friday that troops of the two countries clashed last Monday in the Tindouf region of south-west Algeria. Moroccan officials said here their denial was "most categorical". They likewise denied that there was any tension along the borders.

Algerian officials for their part had earlier refused all comment on the reports, which spoke of Moroccan soldiers pursuing Polisario guerrillas from Western Sahara into Algeria.

ETHIOPIA

REPORTAGE ON ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

23 Apr Dinner Speeches

LD231438 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 23 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Amanuel Amde Mikael, deputy senior minister, yesterday hosted a dinner at the Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa in honor of His Excellency Mr Emilio Colombo, the foreign minister of the Republic of Italy. Guests attending included ministers, members of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Central Committee, permanent secretaries, His Excellency Mr Olivero Rossi, Italian ambassador to socialist Ethiopia, and members of the Italian delegation.

Speaking at the dinner, Comrade Amanuel Amde Mikael said relations between the two peoples and countries as well as cooperation in the economic, technical and cultural fields are of long standing. Noting that the Italian Government had helped Ethiopia obtain aid from the EEC for its efforts to bring about development and prosperity, he said the country needs foreign aid to solve the problems occasioned by man-made and natural disasters.

Comrade Amanuel noted that socialist Ethiopia is making unreserved efforts for the peace and equality of mankind and is strengthening its relations with neighboring countries. He gave an account of the destruction caused by the repeated acts of aggression committed by the reactionary Somali ruling clique in its futile attempts to realize its expansionist dream.

Comrade Amanuel noted that encouraging achievements have resulted from the efforts made and resolute position adopted by the Ethiopian broad masses in defending the territorial integrity and unity of the motherland, eradicating illiteracy and building the country's economy. He expressed the firm belief that the government and people of the Republic of Italy will cooperate in these fields.

Replying, His Excellency Emilio Colombo said the Italian Government greatly values the strong new ties between the two governments which are based on the principles of good relations, cooperation, territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders. He recalled that a high-level Ethiopian delegation had recently held useful talks with Italian officials in Rome, adding that his present visit is a followup to those talks. He said that it is because of the fruitful relations between the two countries that cooperation has been developing in the economic, technical and educational fields. His current visit will further strengthen political relations between the two countries.

In conclusion, he reaffirmed that Italy will continue to cooperate with Ethiopia for the common good of peoples, peace, arms reduction, development and international relations.

Reception Remarks

LD242104 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Apr 81 EA

[Text] The Italian foreign minister, Mr Emilio Colombo, has described his delegation's visit to socialist Ethiopia and the practical discussions with senior Ethiopian Government officials as contributing to the strengthening of the ties between the two countries.

At a dinner reception he gave at the Italian Embassy yesterday in honor of Comrade Amanuel Amde Mikael, deputy senior minister and Commmission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Central Committee member, Mr Colombo said that his official visit to socialist Ethiopia would further enhance the growing relations between the two countries. He further expressed assurance that Italy will continue to cooperate in the endeavors of Ethiopia's efforts for economic and cultural development.

Comrade Amanuel on his part said that the series of talks held by the high-level delegations of Italy and Ethiopia have had fruitful results. Comrade Amanuel expressed his conviction that members of the elegation will brief the government and the people of Italy on the legitimate struggle of socialist Ethiopia for justice, equality and freedom.

Economic Agreements

LD260357 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 25 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Ethiopia and Italy today signed a memorandum of understanding, an agreement on credit facilities, as well as an Ethio-Italian economic committee will also be set up to further strengthen all-round relations between the two countries. [sentence as heard]

The document was signed in Addis Ababa at the end of the Italian foreign minister, Mr Colombo's visit to Ethiopia. Credit facilities amounting to $15 million was signed between the two countries, last year, and according to today's agreement, an additional $20 to 25 million are to be provided for various development projects in Ethiopia this year.

MENGISTU CONGRATULATES NYERERE ON UNION DAY

LD260015 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 25 Apr 81 EA

[Summary] Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam today sent a message of congratulations to President Nyerere on the 17th anniversary of the Tanganyika-Zanzibar union.

"In his message, our revolutionary leader noted that the victories of the heroic Tanzanian people in the revolutionary process and their determined participation in the struggle to liberate the whole of Africa, have been followed closely and with appreciation by the people and Government of Ethiopia. The comrade chairman expressed the hope that under the wise and determined leadership of Comrade President Nyerere, the people of Tanzania will emerge victorious in their struggle to build a prosperous society, adding that the relations between the two countries, which are based on their common anti-imperialist and anticolonialist stand and on mutual interest and benefit, will be further strengthened."

KENYA

PRESIDENT MOI BANS PARLIAMENTARY GROUPINGS

LD231528 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 23 Apr 81 EA

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel Arap Moi today banned parliamentary groupings throughout the country. He said that the existence of such groupings, which were established on provincial bases, were detrimental to national unity as they encouraged tribal and ethnic divisions. President Moi told leaders of such groupings to emulate him, adding that he himself had never formed a parliamentary group for the Rift Valley Province from where he comes.

He advised leaders who were behind such groupings to join their respective district development committee to prove that they were still active after disbanding their parliamentary groupings. The president, however, said that MP's could meet at parliament buildings as leaders of district development committees and hold dialogue on strategies they would use to develop their respective areas.

President Moi was speaking to a large crowd at Karatina Stadium where he conducted a funds drive in aid of all secondary schools in Mathira division.

Dissolution of Some Groups

LD232048 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Apr 81 EA

[Text] President Moi today called on all leaders to use their commonsense and make decisions that did not ridicule the government. He made the call during the lunch-break at Karatina. Following the directive of the president to ban parliamentary groupings, the chairman of the Luo-Kuria parliamentary groups, Dr Robert Ouka, announced the immediate dissolution of the group. Dr Oukai who is the minister for foreign affairs, reiterated the Luo's total loyalty and unshakeable confidence in our beloved president, Daniel Arap Moi, whose wise leadership was taking Kenya to great heights in economic and social development within such a short time.

Earlier reports say MP's from the North-Eastern Province have unanimously resolved to disband their parliamentary group with immediate effect to comply with President Moi's directive. Mohamed Sheikh Aden, who has been the group's chairman, told the Voice of Kenya that his colleagues had hurriedly met in parliament buildings and decided to disband the North-Eastern Province parliamentary group. Sheikh Aden, who is also the MP for Mandera East and an assitant minister for industry, said from now onwards MP's from the province will concentrate on the improvement of their respective district development committees for formulating development projects in their areas.

UGANDA

MUWANGA CONGRATULATES TANZANIA ON UNION DAY

LD270625 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Apr 81 EA

[Text] The vice president, Mr Paulo Muwanga, has congratulated the people of Tanzania on the 17th anniversary to mark their national day. Speaking at a party held at the Nile mansions, the vice president highly commended the spirit of unity existing among the people of Tanzania. It was this unity, he said, that enabled Ugandans who had fled into exile to come back home after 8 years of torturous rule.

Tanzania's liaison officer in Uganda, Mr (Lubule), reiterated the principle of unity, saying that after Tanzania's independence in 1962 his country realized that one of the biggest weapons to fight colonialism and other pockets of resistance was cooperation both at home and abroad.

The party was attended by the head of the TPDF [Tanzania People's Defense Forces], Brigidier Walden; the chief of staff, Brig David Oyite Ojok; ministers; the leader of the opposition, Mr Ssemogerere; diplomats and top government officials.

CONGO

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH OPENING PARTY CONGRESS

AB241635 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Speech delivered by President Denis Sassou-N'guesso on 24 April in Brazzaville opening the sixth session of the Congolese Labor Party--recorded]

[Text] Comrades and members of the Central Committee, 2 years ago the congress assigned me the heavy responsibility of taking our people's destiny into my hands. On that day, in the general apotheosis of the third extraordinary congress, [word indistinct] a political crisis which had been shaking our country since the death of Comrade Marien N'Gouabi, we undertook to serve the people with all our heart by applying the revolutionary guidelines, which had just been adopted, to achieve the participants aspirations through the accomplishment of [word indistinct] duties.

Today we pursue our course of action without allowing ourselves to be deterred by secondary problems with which we are faced or with which we are likely to be faced during our march forward. During the third extraordinary session of the Central Committee, we mainly examined our activities during last year. We reaffirmed our desire to create an atmosphere of peace and work.

Today, it is a great pleasure for all of us to meet again to continue the work we began together. The year 1981 has been named the year of great efforts aimed at strenuous and organized work for the implementation and the control of current programs and at conceiving and adopting the plan.

We are sure that everywhere, in towns and villages, at the top and at the bottom, every militant, every Congolese, has well understood the depth of this watchword. The importance of the agenda that you are to examine is sufficiently straightforward so that you are invited to work seriously not only examining this first quarter of the transitional program but also and especially correcting possible mistakes in the draft plan which will be examined democratically by the mass.

Concerning the plan, the general lines of the third extraordinary congress are straightforward. We used them to prepare the elements which are now at your disposal. In this regard the sixth session of the Central Committee, which follows the third extraordinary congress, is of an importance everyone can measure. After the deviation observed at the beginning of the year, it is important to mobilize all forces for the success of the transitional program and the adoption of the 5-year plan for the 1982-1987 period.

Immortal glory to President Marien N'gouabi. All for the people and nothing but the people.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECISIONS REPORTED

AB241018 Paris AFP in French 1729 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Brazzaville, 23 Apr (AFP)--The Congolese Council of Ministers, which met under the chairmanship of the head of state, Col Denis Sassou-N'guesso, on Wednesday adopted two draft ordinances on reconstructing the Congo-Ocean Railroad (CFCO), one on a loan agreement involving $8 million, and the other a loan agreement involving a sum of 5.7 million kuwaiti dinars. In this regard the council gave its approval to a proposed text giving the endorsement of the Congolese Government to the loan of 28 million FF granted by the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation, (CCCE). This represents the CCCE's contribution to the implementation of the south western axis of the telecommunications and television network.

The council also examined and adopted a protocol between Congo and the ELF-Aquitaine company and Agip [petroleum company] aimed at setting up a research institute to help develop Congo's rich gas potentials.

ZAIRE

AZAP REPORTS ON MEETING OF NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

AB261023 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1354 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Kinshasa, 24 Apr (AZAP)--The founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic, Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko, gave a real revolutionary moral lesson to his associates in the Executive Council (state commissioners and secretaries of state) who met on board the MS Kamanyola in a solemn familiarization meeting.

Here is the full text of the report on the meeting of the new Executive Council in Kinshasa on Friday, 24 April, as read by Citizen Elebe Ma Ekonzo, speaker of the council:

As a familiarization meeting, I should say that it was a meeting unlike the others, because the agenda consisted only of the presentation of the new members, followed by presidential recommendations on the duties assigned to the Executive Council. Gen Mobutu Sese Seko strongly stressed that the Executive Council is and remains the major body that is charged with implementing all the decisions that rule the life of the state, both inside and outside our borders.

The founding chairman presented the new team as a shock cabinet, charged with solving crises. They are also responsible, in the framework of national recovery, for the promotion of agriculture, considered the top priority in Zaire.

A new team....Yes, but Gen Mobutu Sese Seko took every precaution--We saw it in last Thursday's reshuffle--against causing confusion and making spectacular changes. Apart from two state commissioners and three secretaries of state who were relieved of their governmental functions for various indigenous actions in the exercise of their duties, the other associates of the founding chairman were kept in the executive council.

Why? Well, simply because not only should continuity be ensured, but also the hope put in the good seed should remain intact. And it was precisely to guarantee is hope that during Friday's meeting, the president talked at length on the meaning of the oath sworn by his associates of the Executive Council on assuming office. This oath of fidelity to the head of state, to obey the constitution and the laws of the Republic of Zaire, and to loyally and faithfully carry out the duties entrusted to him, is not made for public show, but should truly awaken the conscience of each state commissioner and secretary of state, who should realize that, as a servant of the nation, he has to preach by living the example, both at work and in his private life, the president said. The founding chairman spoke against the habit of seeking help from godfathers. The godfathers are those who make the commissioners and secretaries of state believe that without them, without their intervention, without their assistance to the supreme guide of the Zairian revolution, they would not be where they are--that is members of the Executive Council--and that henceforth they should be obedient to them.

If it is true that the head of state should make consultations before he makes up his team, it is only he who appoints his associates, who should from now on not consider themselves accountable to anyone but the founding chairman himself. In the same context, Gen Mobutu Sese Seko asked the secretaries of state to never deviate from the respect of hierarchy. Here he strongly condemned any discourteous attitude aimed at undermining the authority of [word indistinct] who should also behave like a statesman, vis-a-vis his associates.

Discipline freely shown at all levels, availability, responsibility--these are the other topics which the founding chairman mentioned in his talk. But prior to this, the head of state welcomed the first state commissioner, the new state commissioners and secretaries of state into the Executive Council and he wished them courage, perseverance, and much success in carrying out their duties. The head of state asked his old associates to always take charge of their respective departments in order to ensure the success of the duties assigned to them by the revolution during this social year characterized by economic recovery and agricultural boom.

In the name of the team, the first state commissioner thanked the founding chairman for the confidence placed in each member of the Executive Council who will, under his coordination, do everything not to deceive the hopes of the people. I owe my legitimacy to the head of state, Prime Minister Nsinga said. And in this regard, I will faultlessly implement his policy, which is that of the MPR.

Finally, I would like to inform the public that henceforth, the founding chairman will personally lead the activities of the Executive Council meeting the first Friday of the month, while the other weekly meetings will be presided over by the prime minister.

The president took leave of his associates of the Executive Council at Nsele.

NEW GOVERNMENT MEMBERS SWEAR LOYALTY TO MOBUTU

AB251155 Paris AFP in French 1108 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Brazzaville, 25 Apr (AFP)--The new members of the Zairian Executive Council (government) swore oaths of loyalty before President Mobutu Sese Seko on Friday, Zairian radio and television--monitored in Brazzaville--announced Saturday.

Among them are the first state commissioner (prime minister), Mr Nsinga Udjuu Ongwakekbi Untube; the minister for public health, Mr Kaba Sengele; the minister of works, Mr Mbaya Ngangu; four secretaries of state, and the secretary general for women's affairs, Mrs Ekila Lithonda.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS TO Gabon--President Bongo yesterday morning received the letters of credence of four new ambassadors. They are Mr Feliciano Obam Zemengue of Equatorial Guinea; Mr Sidi Ould Cheikh of Mauritania; Moustapha Tahi of Niger and Mamouna Toure of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea. [Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 23 Apr 81 AB]

BENIN

FORMER RULERS REPORTED RELEASED FROM CUSTODY

AB250734 Paris AFP in English 0725 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Abidjan, April 15 (AFP)--Benin's military government has reportedly freed the political leaders ousted in a coup in 1972, reliable sources said here.

They were presidential council members Hubert Maga, Sourou Migan Apithy and Justin Ahomadegbe Tometin, overthrown in October 1972 by young army officers led by the country's current president, Mathieu Kerekou.

The three men, who ruled what was then called Dahomey as a triumvirate, were said to have been freed from eight years of house arrest at the Easter weekend, the sources reported yesterday. There has been no official announcement in the Benin capital, Cotonou.

THE GAMBIA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON CAPE VERDE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

AB241238 Paris AFP in French 0918 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Banjul, 24 Apr (AFP)--Mr Aristides Pereira, president of the Republic of Cape Verde, left Banjul Thursday following a 24-hour working visit to The Gambia.

According to a joint communique published in Banjul, this visit had helped to reactivate and strengthen new areas of cooperation between The Gambia and Cape Verde.

The communique adds that the Gambian and Cape Verdean presidents once again denounced South Africa's incursions into the territories of Namibia's neighboring states. They also renewed their support for the OAU's efforts to solve the differences between African countries and expressed support for peaceful settlement of the conflicts.

The two presidents expressed great anxiety over the drought which is hitting the Sahel countries and is ruining their economies and have appealed to the international community to increase its aid to the Sahel countries.

GHANA

LIMANN ADDRESSES YOUTH, APPEALS FOR SUPPORT OF ALL

AB261033 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Excerpt] The president, Dr Limann, has declared that the survival of the individual and national salvation transcends everything at present. People should therefore not be carried away by lengthy ideological and theoretical dissertations at the moment.

The president was delivering the keynote address at the first national congress of the youth wing of the People's National Party [PNP] in Accra. He said no ideology can solve Ghana's problems overnight, adding that the only solution to the problem is for the people to go to the field and work. Dr Limann commended the youth of the party for the role they have played since the party was formed. He hoped through a harmonious blend of the old and young members of the party the PNP would be able to provide solutions to the nation's problems. The youth are therefore expected to direct their enthusiasm, determination and activities at the sole objective of rescuing the nation from ruin.

The president said the government recognizes the youth as the most vital asset of Ghana, adding that the PNP is the only party that offers the brightest future for the youth of the country. Dr Limann renewed his appeal for the understanding and support of all Ghanaians for future productivity, which he said, would provide a genuine means and permanent basis for sound economic recovery and growth. The president said his government would [words indistinct] level-headed and steady course of action in finding solutions to national problems.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM 'BROKEN DOWN COMPLETELY'

AB260938 Paris AFP in English 0920 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] Accra, 26 Apr (AFP)--Ghana's telecommunications system has broken down completely, according to President Hilla Limann. He made the comment Friday when a delegation of public relations agents paid a courtesy call at the presidential country house near Accra.

It was the second time Mr. Limann had made such a remark about communications in this West African state. Last October, he said in Parliament that the service was the despair of clients.

NIGERIA

DEPORTATION OF ALL UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS PLANNED

AB250634 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] The minister of state in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Mrs Janet Akinriade, says all aliens without valid immigration documents will be deported. She announced in Lagos that the exercise was part of the move to check the influx of aliens into the country. The minister disclosed that 12 more border posts will be established in various parts of the country.

New Border Posts

AB250929 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Border control in Nigeria is to be further strengthened. Toward this end, 12 more posts are to be established to check the influx of aliens into the country. The minister of state in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Mrs Janet Akinriade, said that most of the posts will be in the northern part of the country. She added that immigration officials had been directed to intensify scrutiny of documents and aliens and that any immigrant found to have entered the country illegally would be handed over to his embassy for immediate deportation.

SENEGAL

REPORTAGE ON VISIT BY IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT

Ma'ruf-Thiam Talks

JN232133 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Dakar, 23 Apr (INA)--The official talks between Iraq and Senegal began here this evening with regard to the various fields of cooperation between the two countries. The Iraqi side at the talks was headed by Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf and the Senegalese side was headed by Prime Minister Habib Thiam.

Ma'ruf reviewed the socialist accomplishments scored in Iraq guided by Ba'th Party principles and by President Saddam Husayn. He reiterated Iraq's firm stand on the Palestinian people's issue, reaffirming Iraq's condemnation of the Camp David accords. He also reviewed Iraq's principled policy toward the principle of good-neighbor relations with all neighbors. He added that the racist Persian enemy is continuously violating neighborly relations.

Ma'ruf asserted Iraq's principles in the Nonaligned Movement and its interest in developing and bringing about the success of this movement, alluding to the meetings of the Islamic foreign ministers conference, which will be held in Baghdad in June.

Ma'Ruf then touched on relations with Senegal, adding that these have been developed ever since President Saddam Husayn's meeting with President Abdou Diouf.

Habib Thiam expressed appreciation and admiration for Iraq's accomplishments under the Ba'th Party and President Saddam Husayn in the various fields. He also expressed appreciation for Iraq's firm course in its Arab, African and international relations. Referring to the Iraqi-Iranian war, Thiam said that his country is endeavoring, through the peace committees, to participate in solving the conflict peacefully on basis of the principles of right and justice.

The INA team reported that the two sides' views were identical on the various topics which were discussed today. Two political and economic committees were formed to prepare the joint statement and the cooperation fields. The team added that a number of economic and cultural agreements would be signed during the visit.

Joint Statement

JN261550 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Apr (INA)--Iraq and Senegal stressed that the Palestinian issue is the core of the existing struggle between the Arab nation and the Zionist entity.

A joint statement to be disseminated later today on the visit Iraqi Vice President Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf paid to Senegal said that the two countries consider recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights as a prerequisite for any solution of the Middle East issue. They also pointed out that the initiatives and agreements reached without the participation of the Palestinians under the PLO cannot be conducive to a just and lasting solution to the Arab-Zionist conflict. In this regard, the two sides stressed what has been previously approved by the third Islamic summit conference, particularly with regard to the two Camp David accords.

In their joint statement, Iraq and Senegal condemned the continued Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon and said that this aggression is part of the imperialist maneuvers that are aimed at liquidating the Palestinian resistance and is a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and regional unity.

The two sides strongly condemned the illegitimate Zionist entity's decision to annex Jerusalem and to consider it as its eternal capital. They considered this decision to be contrary to international laws and norms and UN resolutions. They appealed to all world states to boycott the Zionist entity economically and militarily. In this regard, the Iraqi side praised Senegal's positive stand toward the Arab issues, headed by the Palestinian cause.

The two sides recalled to mind the UN General Assembly resolution which considers Zionism to be a form of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. They agreed that fighting and eradicating racial discrimination and apartheid in all their forms are the responsibility of all peoples and states.

Regarding the rest of the spots of tension in the Third World, the two sides stressed the need to bolster accord and to enhance the effectiveness of the Islamic Conference Organization. Within this context, the Iraqi delegation explained the causes and regrettable developments which led to the conflict with Iran.

The two sides stressed their conviction that respect for the principles of sovereignty, nonintervention in internal affairs, good-neighbor relations and mutual respect of other countries' rights are essential for preserving relations of natural cooperation among states.

The Senegalese side hailed the Iraqi side's positive response to all initiatives, particularly those of the Islamic Conference Organization, that aim through dialogue at reaching a final solution to the Iraqi-Iranian crisis with a view to securing security and stability in the Arab Gulf region. They stressed that maintaining security and stability in the Arab Gulf region is the responsibility of this region's states alone, without any foreign intervention.

On the situation in Afghanistan, the two sides expressed the hope that peace as represented in respect for Afghanistan's independence and sovereignty will prevail.

The two sides stressed their faith in the need to consolidate and expand the scope of Arab-African cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit due to the various ties linking them.

The two sides gave special attention to the issue of the developing countries, whose economic situation is still in a deteriorated state. They stressed the need to take effective steps to establish a new international economic order on the basis of equality, justice and prosperity for all. They stressed the need to exert effective and concerted efforts to implement the UN General Assembly resolutions which were adopted in its two special sessions on the establishment of this order.

Within this framework, the Senegalese side praised Iraq's initiative in submitting the proposal on the establishment of a long-term world fund to aid the developing states against the repercussions of inflation. This proposal is based on the position that all the developed industrial states should contribute to this fund as much as is exported in the form of inflation to the developing states by them. The oil-exporting states should also contribute to it with rates equal to the hike in the prices of their oil exports to the developing states due to the amendments to the oil prices. The two sides called on the concerned states to adopt and support the practical formulas that may lead to quickly putting this proposal into practice.

The two sides discussed the important role played by the Nonaligned Movement in the international arena. They affirmed their commitment to the movement's principles and expressed their great hope that the seventh summit conference, to be held in Baghdad in 1982, as well as the 12th conference of the Islamic foreign ministers, scheduled to be held in Baghdad next June, will be successful.

The Senegalese side expressed its special appreciation of the exemplary development course and effective support of Third World issues in the political, economic and cultural spheres to which Iraq has adhered.

The two sides reviewed current international issues. They affirmed their belief in the principles of the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic Conference Organization. They expressed their conviction that respect for these principles is essential for the preservation of international peace and security and the progress and prosperity of peoples.

The two sides expressed their extreme anxiety over the tension prevailing in several areas of the world. In this respect, they denounced the arrogant policy adopted by the South African Government and reaffirmed their governments' intentions of continuing to work inside international organizations, particularly the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement, to eradicate racial discrimination and liberate Namibia and the Walvis Bay port. They affirmed their solidarity with the South-West African People's Organization and the National Movement for the Liberation of South Africa. They also expressed their extreme concern over the worsening of tension in Africa, a situation which encourages foreign intervention and is damaging to the unity of the African Continent. Therefore, the two sides feel that it is necessary to solve the problems of the continent by means of dialogue.

As regards the Sahara problem, the two sides expressed their conviction that it is necessary to arrive at a solution by means of achieving understanding among the quarters concerned. The two sides expressed satisfaction regarding their identical viewpoints on attempts to cause confusion and instability in Africa.

In the field of bilateral relations, the two sides noted with satisfaction the positive progress in these relations due to the directives of Presidents Saddam Husayn and Abdou Diouf. They affirmed their determination to increase the scope of cooperation to include all spheres. Hence, the following agreements were signed during the visit:

1. An agreement for economic, commercial, technical and scientific cooperation.

2. A cooperation agreement between the Iraqi and Senegalese news agencies.

In addition, an agreement was signed for a long-term, interest free $2.6 million loan from the Iraqi External Development Fund in implementation of the program announced by Iraq in 1979 to help developing countries. The loan will go toward helping Senegal cover the price differentials in oil supplied to Senegal.

The two sides considered the establishment of the joint Iraqi-Senegalese committee, which was decided upon during the visit, as an important step.

The two sides discussed what has been implemented under the cultural cooperation program which was signed between the two countries on 8 September 1980. The Senegalese side noted the Iraqi efforts to implement the articles of the agreement and acquainted the Iraqi side with the obstacles that prevent the Senegalese side from carrying out the articles of the program. On this basis, the two sides agreed on the steps needed to remove these obstacles in order to develop bilateral relations.

Mr Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf ended his 3-day visit to Senegal yesterday. He was accompanied by a high-level Iraqi delegation.

BILL ADOPTED PERMITTING MULTIPARTY SYSTEM

AB250705 Paris AFP in French 1856 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Dakar, 24 April (AFP)--A multiparty system exists in Senegal beginning today, Friday. In fact the Senegalese National Assembly has finally adopted the bill on constitutional reform introduced by the government and cancelling the law existing since (?1974) limiting the number of parties to four.

This constitutional reform, therefore, makes it no longer obligatory for these four parties to adopt one of four labels, that is, Socialist (adopted by the ruling Socialist Party), liberal (adopted by the Senegalese Democratic Party), Marxist (adopted by the African Independence Party) and conservative (adopted by the Senegalese Republican Movement).

The only restriction in the new law is that it is forbidden for political parties to identify themselves with a particular race, ethnic group, sex, language, sect or region.

ANGOLA

OFFICIAL HAILS COOPERATION MEETING WITH CUBA

FL241527 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Luanda--The fourth session of the Angolan-Cuban intergovernmental committee to be held in Havana in the next few days will be of momentous significance for our two countries, Angolan Secretary for Cooperation Paulino Pinto Joao has declared in Luanda.

In statements to PRENSA LATINA shortly before departing for the Cuban capital, Pinto Joao said the holding of this important annual meeting comes at a time when the People's Republic of Angola is taking important steps to plan its social and economic development.

SOUTH AFRICA

FOREIGN MINISTER ON NEW INITIATIVE FOR TERRITORY

LD270107 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] The South African foreign minister, Mr Roelof Botha, says the world now stands before a new initiative on South-West Africa. In an interview with Radio RSA he said that in this connection the American view on fundamental rights that had to be observed in South-West Africa and on equal treatment for all the parties involved was encouraging. Mr Botha said it should now be clear to the West and even to radical elements at the United Nations that the democratic internal parties of South-West Africa could not accept the United Nations in the role of referee which had initially been planned for it. Both the General Assembly and the Security Council had now demonstrated that they wanted to give SWAPO preferential treatment.

ZAMBIA

GOMA URGES MORE WESTERN PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA

LD231112 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Apr 81 CA

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Prof Lameck Goma said last night that Western countries should exert more pressure on South Africa to agree to a peaceful settlement of the Namibia problem under UN auspices. Professor Goma was addressing the UN Security Council on the question of Namibia, which South Africa illegally rules in defiance of the United Nations. The foreign minister called upon members of the Western contact group to support the adoption of enforcement measures against Pretoria for its noncompliance in the peaceful efforts to achieve independence for Namibia. Professor Goma said that the continued illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa constituted a serious threat to international peace and security.

ZIMBABWE

MANGWENDE CRITICIZES WEST'S EFFORTS ON PRETORIA

LD231120 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Apr 81 CA

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende, has accused Western governments of being unwilling and half-hearted in their attempts to exert pressure on the Pretoria regime to leave Namibia. Addressing the UN Security Council in his capacity as chairman of the OAU Foreign Ministers' Council, Comrade Mangwende said it is now obvious that apartheid-ruled South Africa has its own plans for Namibia. Comrade Mangwende said these plans are completely contrary to the UN objectives. He accused racist South Africa of establishing a puppet regime in the territory and said that the regime has committed itself to granting fake independence by way of an internal settlement a la Muzorewa.